VOL.
14

# Fuuka

KOUJI SEO

KOUJI SEO
WITH CONCEPTUAL ASSISTANCE BY
YOSHINORI SUGIMOTO
VOL.
14
Fuuka

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FUUKA VOL. 14

# #126 WEEKEND BAND!

OOO

OOF

WOW

...

WOW.

WHY DIDN'T THEY PLAY THIS SONG YESTER-DAY?

...TO SHOW YOU WHAT WE REALLY ARE!!

WE WANT ANOTHER CHANCE...

...THE BAND ACKNOWL-EDGED BY SAORI AMAYA.

SO THIS IS...

...

YOU GUYS COULD EVEN SURPASS THE HEDGE-HOGS.

TRUST ME.

DIDN'T I TELL YOU?

SAORI AMAYA IS WORTH TRUSTING.

?!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!

THE BAND I'M PRODUCING HAD A GIG NEAR HERE YESTER-DAY.

THEY'RE HUGE FANS OF KANARIA AND WANTED TO SEE THEM PLAY. SO THEY DRAGGED ME HERE.

WOOO

BUT IF YOU THINK ABOUT WHERE WE WERE BACK THEN, WE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE.

I MEAN, UH--

WELL...

WE DO FEEL BAD ABOUT WHAT HAP-PENED...

...

UM... LOOK--

AND ON TOP OF THAT, STARTING UP AGAIN OUT HERE.

WELL, YOU KNOW...

...AND RUNNING FROM THE COMPANY.

DUMPING ALL OUR DEBT ON YOU...

...

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

ANY-WAY, DON'T YOU GUYS...

...NEED TO START GETTING READY?

WHA--

I DIDN'T TAKE ON THAT DEBT FOR YOUR SAKE.

AND IF YOU WANT TO BE IN A BAND, THAT'S YOUR CALL.

YEAH.

I'LL DO THAT.

O-OH. YEAH.

YOU'RE RIGHT.

OKAY, WELL. YEAH. HOPE YOU STAY AND WATCH.

YAMMER

YAMMER

THEIR SONG WAS GREAT! THEY JUST MADE ME A FAN!!

RIGHT? I THOUGHT SO, TOO!!

YEAH, BLUE WELLS, WAS IT? TO BE HONEST, THEY MIGHT BE BETTER THAN KANARIA!

THAT BAND WAS REALLY GOOD!!

TWITCH

IF YOU FEEL EVEN A LITTLE BIT LIKE YOU DID ME WRONG...

...THEN DO ME A FAVOR.

WAIT A MINUTE.

MURMUR

MURMUR

MURMUR

HA HA HA HA! WE PUT ON A GREAT SHOW TODAY!

I CAN RELAX AND WATCH KANARIA NOW!

ALREADY GETTING A BIG HEAD...

WELL, OUR SHOW REALLY WAS THAT SATISFYING.

THANKS, YUU-KUN.

FOR LETTING ME DO THAT SONG.

NO WAY! I SHOULD BE THANK-ING YOU.

I FEEL LIKE I'VE REMEM-BERED SOME-THING REALLY IMPORTANT.

HUH-- REALLY?

WELL, THEN.

OH, THE SHOW IS STARTING!

DUM

DUM

DUM

DUM

DUM!!

DUM!!

DUM!!

DUM!!

DUM!!

MOGAMI-SAN?!

WH-WHY IS HE --?!

WHAT?!

ISN'T THAT--

FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY, KANARIA'S ORIGINAL BASSIST, AKIRA MOGAMI, IS BACK!!

YOU GUYS HERE AT TODAY'S SHOW ARE LUCKY!

GLAD TO BE HERE!

DUM

HI, GUYS.

DUM

A FAVOR?

YEAH. HOW ABOUT WE SHOW THOSE KIDS WHO ARE GETTING COCKY OVER ONE DECENT SHOW...

DUM

NO WAY!

AKIRA MOGAMI USED TO BE IN KANARIA ?!

...WITH ALL THREE OF US?

...THE REAL KANARIA...

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!! AWE-SOME!!

DUM

BOOM

?!

WH-WHAT IS THIS?!

THEY'RE NOTHING LIKE YESTERDAY!

TINGLE TINGLE

WHOA!! HERE WE GO!

THIS IS IT! MOGAMI-SAN'S HIGH-SPEED SLAP!!

Y-YUU-KUN. CAN YOU DO THAT?

...NO WAY.

I CAN'T DEAL WITH THIS!

WE AGREED TO PAY IT OFF OUR-SELVES IF WE FAILED, RIGHT?

WE'RE THE ONES WHO CHOSE TO BOOK THAT HUGE VENUE.

WHY DO WE HAVE TO WORK PART-TIME TO REPAY OUR DEBT?!

I HATE TO DO THAT TO YOU, BUT I THINK IT'S TIME.

YEAH. IF WE GO NOW. WE CAN START OVER.

YOU'RE RUNNING AWAY?!

WE NEVER HAD ANY TALENT. LET'S JUST GET REAL JOBS.

WE CAN'T KEEP CHASING THAT PRESIDENT'S STUPID DREAM.

SO THAT'S YOUR ANSWER_

HEY, SUZUYA. DO YOU ENJOY YOUR JOB?

HUH? LIKE HELL I DO. I GET YELLED AT ALL THE TIME.

IT WAS TOUGH WHEN WE WERE IN THE BAND.

...BUT AT LEAST WE FELT FULFILLED EVERY DAY.

IT'S TOO LATE.

...TO SAY THINGS LIKE THAT NOW.

IF...

HEY, SUZUYA.

WHY DON'T WE AT LEAST BE A BAND ON THE WEEKENDS? JUST FOR FUN.

YEAH. MAYBE.

IF WE HADN'T GIVEN UP ON THAT DREAM...

...WOULD WE STILL BE...

WOOOOO

...A BAND OF THREE...

...JUST LIKE WE ARE RIGHT NOW?

THANK YOU EVERY-BODY!!

MIKUMA, YOU ROCK!!

HAAH

HAAH

MO-GAMI!

HAAH

HAAH

HAAH

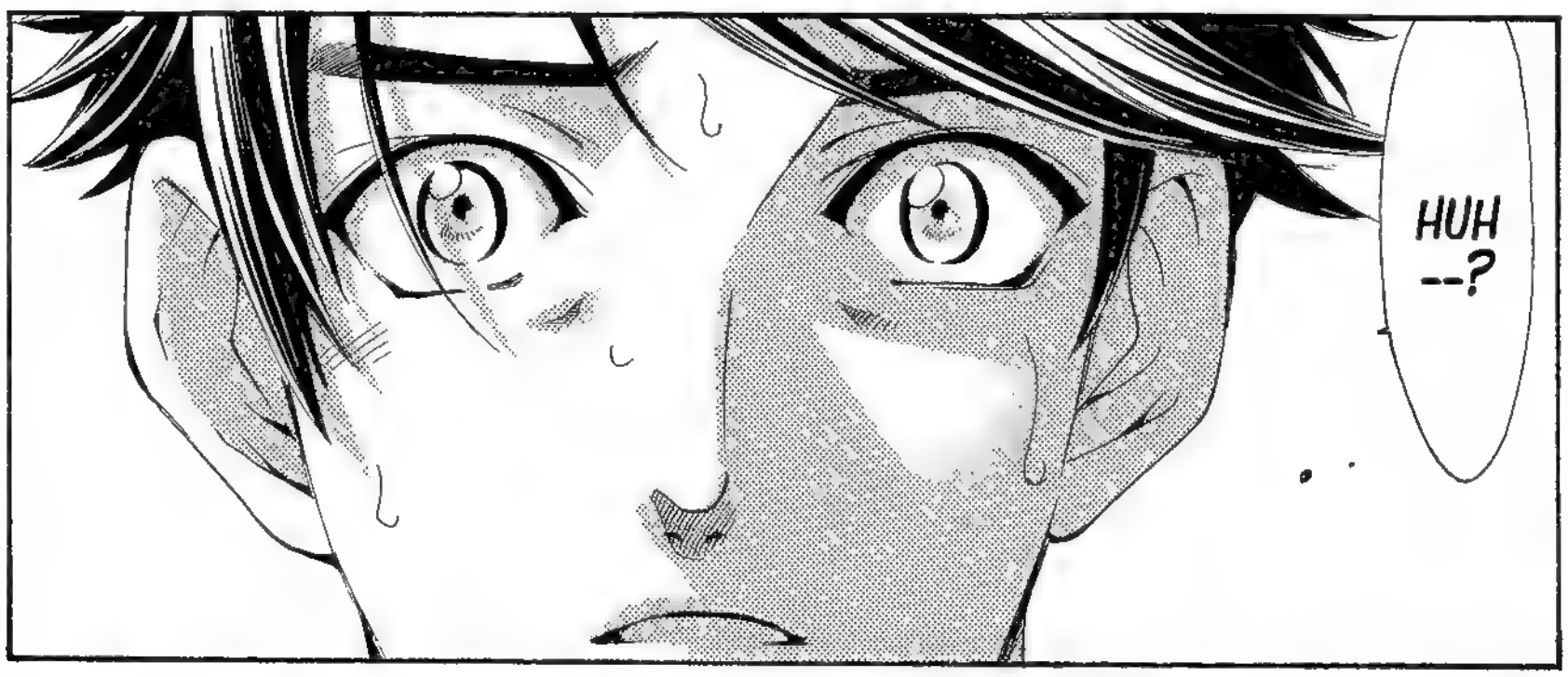
SU-ZUYA-SAN!!

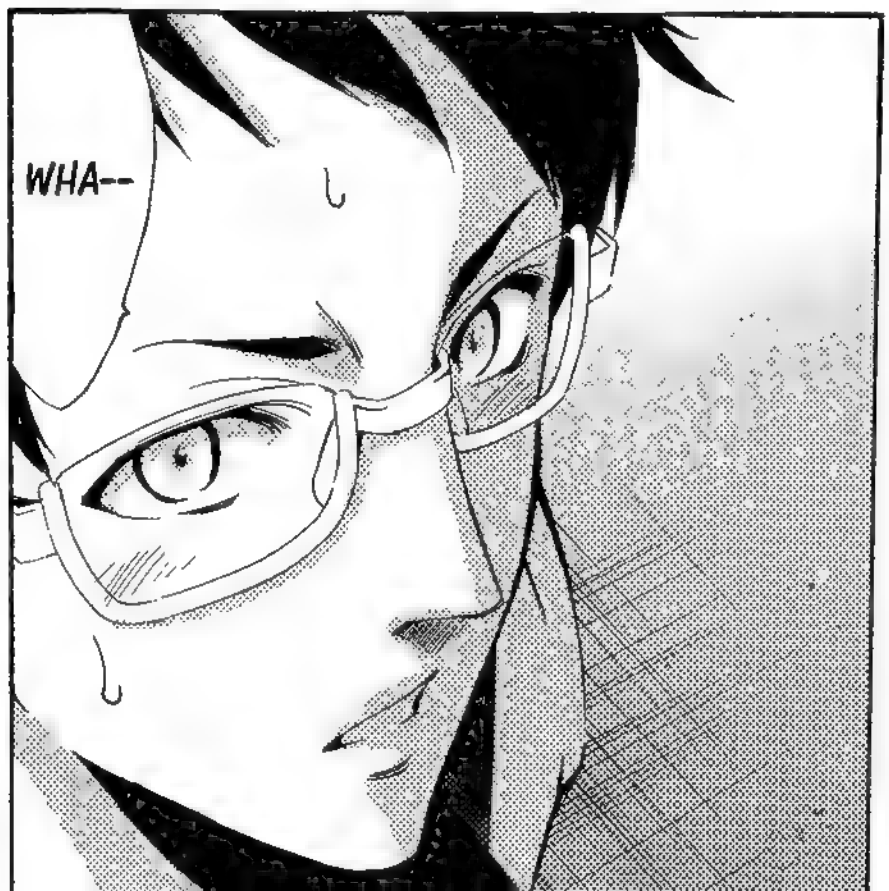
SO THIS IS THE REAL KANARIA.

...

W-WOW.

THEY TOTALLY CREAMED US.


HUH --?


WHA--

PRESI-
DENT_
_AMAYA?

!!

WOOOO

THANK YOU...

...VERY MUCH!

OO

I CAN SEE WHY THE PRESIDENT BET EVERY-THING ON THEM.

THEIR SHOW TODAY WAS ESPECIALLY INSPIRED.

..YEAH.

WE'RE STILL NOWHERE NEAR...

..BEING ABLE TO FOLLOW IN THEIR FOOT-STEPS.

I THOUGHT I JUST SAW THE PRESI-DENT.

HUH? YEAH, RIGHT.

THAT TIGHTWAD WOULDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY.

YEAH... I GUESS NOT.

..HUH?

WHAT'S WRONG?

# 127 THE REST OF THE DREAM.

YOU SHOULD DEFI-NITELY...

...GET BACK TOGETHER!!

HEY...

WE SAID IT WAS FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY.

DON'T BE RIDICU-LOUS.

...

...

"I MRGH

BUT WHY, WHEN YOU CAN PUT ON INCREDIBLE SHOWS LIKE THAT?!

IF YOU START NOW, YOU COULD MAKE IT TO THE TOP IN THE MAJORS!!

THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S SUCH A WASTE NOT TO!!

LATER...

...KANARIA.

AH-- BUT MOGAMI-SAN!

FOR-GET IT. LET'S GO, GUYS.

WE HAVE TO GET READY FOR YOUR NEXT TOUR STOP.

LATER, MISTER PRO-DUCER.

YEAH.

I KNOW, BUT--!

IT CAN'T BE HELPED, YUU-KUN.

MOGAMI-SAN IS BUSY ENOUGH AS IT IS.

A-ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?!

REALLY SURE?!

MORE IMPOR-TANT...

...

HUH?

WHY DIDN'T YOU GUYS PLAY THAT SONG, "FOR YOU," YESTERDAY?

IT'S REALLY SOLID, BUT IT'S NOT EVEN ON YOUR CD.

IT'S...

...A SONG WE DID BEFORE FUUKA JOINED THE BAND.

IT WAS HARD FOR US TO PLAY IT WITH OUR CURRENT LINEUP, FOR CERTAIN REASONS.

SO I ASKED THEM IF WE COULD DO IT THIS TIME.

JUST THIS ONCE WAS ENOUGH.

THAT'S A WASTE OF A GOOD SONG.

YOU SHOULD PLAY IT AT THE REST OF YOUR TOUR STOPS.

BUT I DON'T KNOW IF WE SHOULD PLAY A SONG THAT ISN'T ON OUR CD.

YEAH.

WELL...

IF PEOPLE LIKE IT THAT MUCH, I'D LIKE TO PLAY IT, BUT...

HUH?

UH-- YEAH, A FEW.

THE BAND YOU WERE IN BEFORE...

DID IT HAVE OTHER SONGS?

ALL RIGHT.

LET'S GO, THEN.

...

HUH?

WHERE ARE WE GOING THIS LATE AT NIGHT?

WHAT?

YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING. I JUST FINISHED MY WORK FOR THE DAY.

AWW, COME ON, KUMANO.

I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO A NICE GIRL

YOU SAID THAT BEFORE AND THEN BROUGHT SOME OLD LADY FROM YOUR OLD PRODUCTION COMPANY!

WELL, YOU SAID YOU WANTED A MATURE WOMAN.

IT'S MY FRIEND'S RECORDING STUDIO.

YOU GUYS ARE GONNA BRING YOUR FORMER BAND'S SONGS BACK, BLUE WELLS' STYLE.

UM... IS THIS...?

OH, YEAH.

WE'LL CALL THIS YOUR PERFOR-MANCE FEE FOR TONIGHT.

BUT WE COULDN'T!

THAT WOULDN'T BEGIN TO COVER A RECORDING FEE!

B-BUT--

WE DON'T HAVE THE MONEY TO COVER ANOTHER RECORDING SESSION.

YOU HAVE SUCH GREAT SONGS. YOU'VE GOTTA USE THEM.

IF YOU SOLD THEM IN A BUNDLE WITH YOUR CURRENT CD, I BET YOU'D SELL MORE.

IT'S FINE.

LET US HELP YOU OUT.

BE-SIDES...

THAT WAS THE REAL BLUE WELLS, WASN'T IT?

GUYS, PLEASE...

LET ME DO THIS.

HUH?

!!

I--
I WANT TO DO IT!

I WANT TO SING ALL OF THE FALLEN MOON'S SONGS!

I GUESS THAT SETTLES IT.

YOUR DIVA SAYS SHE WANTS TO DO IT.

FUUKA...

WHA--

...

THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO ASK YOU.

WHAT?!

YUU-KUN, IS THAT OKAY WITH YOU?

I DON'T MIND, BUT... YOU GUYS REMEMBER YOUR PARTS, RIGHT?

!!

..YEAH.

I WANT TO SING THEM, TOO.

EX-CUSE ME!!

OKAY!

HEY! I NEVER AGREED TO--

ALL RIGHT! FOR STARTERS, LET'S HEAR ALL OF THE SONGS SO WE'LL KNOW WHETHER THEY'RE WORTH RE-RECORDING.

WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME, SO LET'S GET STARTED.

ZZZ...

ZZZ...

NNOONN...

700

WE ALL REALLY LIKED THEM, AND WE WENT TO SEE THEM LOTS OF TIMES.

WHY DID KANARIA BREAK UP?

MAYBE THE REASON I WAS ATTRACTED TO THEIR MUSIC WAS...

...

MAN, I'M GETTING OLD.

WHY ELSE WOULD I BE THINKING ABOUT THIS?

ZZZ すやー

WELL?

THINK YOU'LL BE DONE BY MORNING?

OF COURSE I WILL.

WHO DO YOU THINK I AM?

FOR SURE.

YOU'RE THE NUMBER ONE PUPIL...

...OF THE LEGENDARY RECORDING ENGINEER AKANE HAYATOMO.

SHUT UP.

SHE'S MARRIED NOW. SO IT'S AKANE MAMIYA.

WE DIDN'T FIND THEM.

SAORI AMAYA DID.

ANYWAY, YOU GUYS FOUND SOME PRETTY IMPRESSIVE ROOKIES.

THEIR SONGS ARE DAMN GOOD.

HUH?

UH, YEAH. THAT AMAYA.

WHA?

AMAYA... THAT SEXY-AS-HELL PRODUCER WOMAN?

...

HUH. THEY REALLY MUST BE GOOD.

SHE WAS THE GENIUS WHO DISCOVERED KANARIA, AFTER ALL

WE'RE NOTHING COMPARED TO THESE KIDS.

REALLY?

YEAH.

WE'RE NOT SUFFERING AT ALL.

WE'RE DOING THIS BECAUSE IT'S ALL WE'VE GOT.

TO AN OLD MAN LIKE ME, THEY'RE SO DAZZLING I CAN HARDLY LOOK AT THEM.

THEY HAVE NO HESITATION OR UNCERTAINTY WHEN IT COMES TO THEIR DREAM.

IF WE COULD HAVE BELIEVED IN OURSELVES AS MUCH AS THESE KIDS BELIEVE IN THEIR SONGS...

I DUNNO...

WERE WE REALLY?

YOU GUYS WERE THE SAME, WEREN'T YOU?

IN YOUR YOUNG DAYS.

MAYBE OUR LIVES WOULD BE A LOT DIFFER-ENT NOW.

WELL, WE CAN'T JUST TAKE THE DAY OFF.

UM... ARE YOU GUYS GOING TO WORK NOW?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR HELP.

WE'RE ONLY IN THIS BAND BECAUSE WE LIKE DOING IT.

SORRY TO HAVE YOU DO SO MUCH FOR US.

I MEAN...

WE DID HAVE A DREAM OF SURPASSING THE HEDGE-HOGS ONCE, BUT...

BUT--

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. WE DO OUR JOB BECAUSE WE LIKE IT, TOO.

SURE. GOOD LUCK WITH THE REST OF YOUR TOUR.

WE'LL SEND YOU THE CDS ONCE THEY'RE PRINTED.

HUH?

HERE.

LOOK AT THIS.

I-IT'S STILL TOO SOON TO GIVE UP!

IF YOU START NOW, YOU CAN--

THEY'RE MY DAUGHTERS.

CUTE, AREN'T THEY?

I WANT TO MAKE IT A SUCCESS AND HELP OUR COMPANY GROW.

AND I JUST GOT HANDED A MAJOR PROJECT AT WORK.

...SO THAT WHEN THEY GET MARRIED, THEY BREAK DOWN CRYING AS THEY THANK ME.

MY DREAM NOW IS TO RAISE THEM TO BE UPSTANDING WOMEN...

I'M SURE MOGAMI FEELS THE SAME WAY.

...

THAT'S JUST ANOTHER WAY TO LIVE.

THERE ARE SOME DREAMS YOU CAN ONLY FIND BY THROWING AWAY OLD ONES.

AND WITH ANY LUCK...

...WE'LL BE ABLE TO WATCH YOU FOR A LONG TIME...

JUST STAY WITH IT, AND KEEP GOING YOUR OWN WAY.

SO YOU KIDS JUST NEED TO DO THE BEST YOU CAN AT WHAT YOU WANT TO DO RIGHT NOW.

...THAT WE WERE CHASING ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.

...WHILE YOU KEEP AFTER THE REST OF THE DREAM...

WE WILL!

THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING!

SURE.

DON'T FALL ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL, OKAY?

DARN.

WE'RE CUTTING IT CLOSE ON TIME.

WELL, KEEP IT UP, BLUE WELLS.

YEAH!!

WE'LL MAKE THEIR DREAM COME TRUE!

ALL RIGHT! LET'S GET GOING!!

HA HA!

...

...NEWBIES.

IT'S UP TO YOU...

TAKO-YAKI...

PLAYING A GIG IN THE HOLY LAND OF ROCK MUSIC IS LIKE A DREAM!

WOW! WE'RE FINALLY IN OSAKA!!

Furuka

HUH? ISN'T THE BUDOUKAN THE HOLY LAND OF ROCK MUSIC?

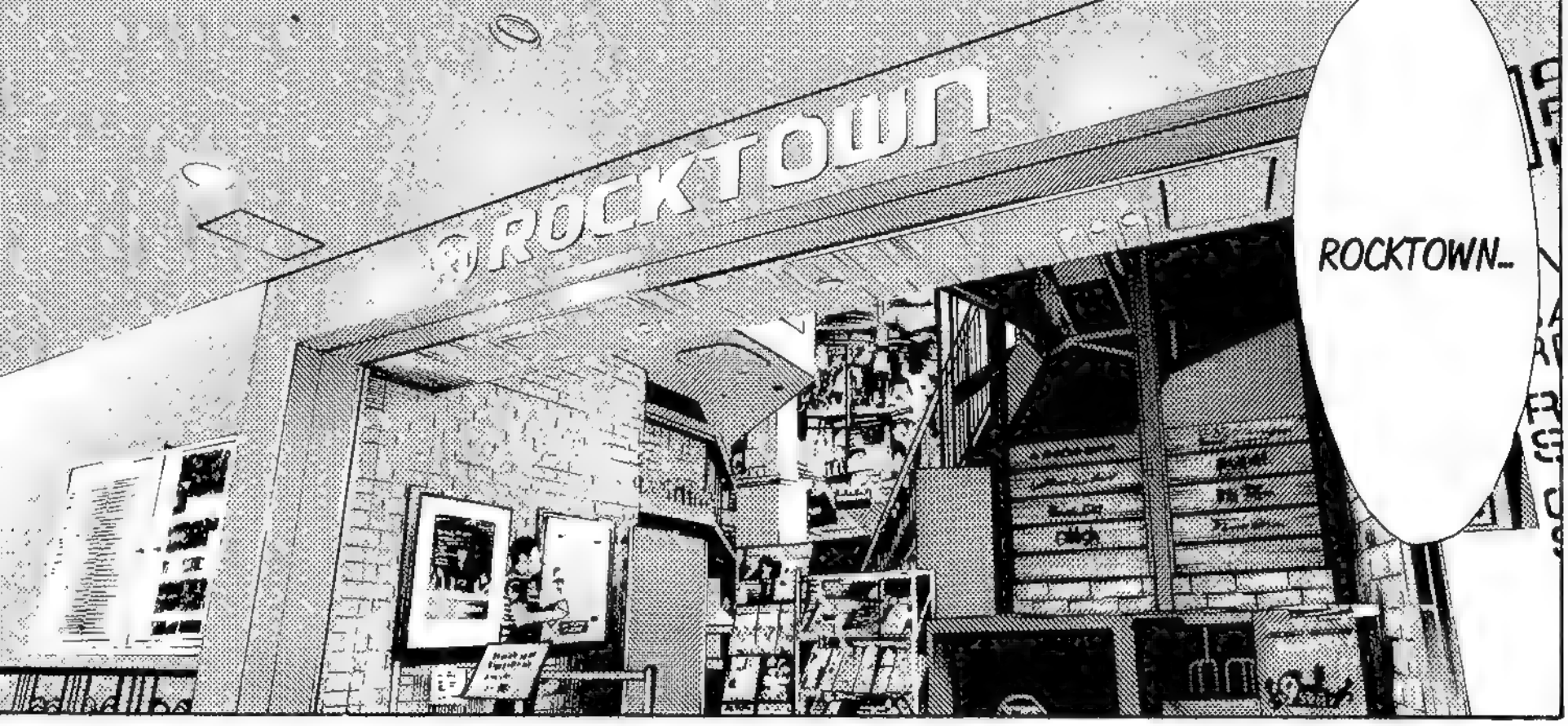
NO WAY! TONS OF AMAZING BANDS HAVE COME FROM OSAKA!

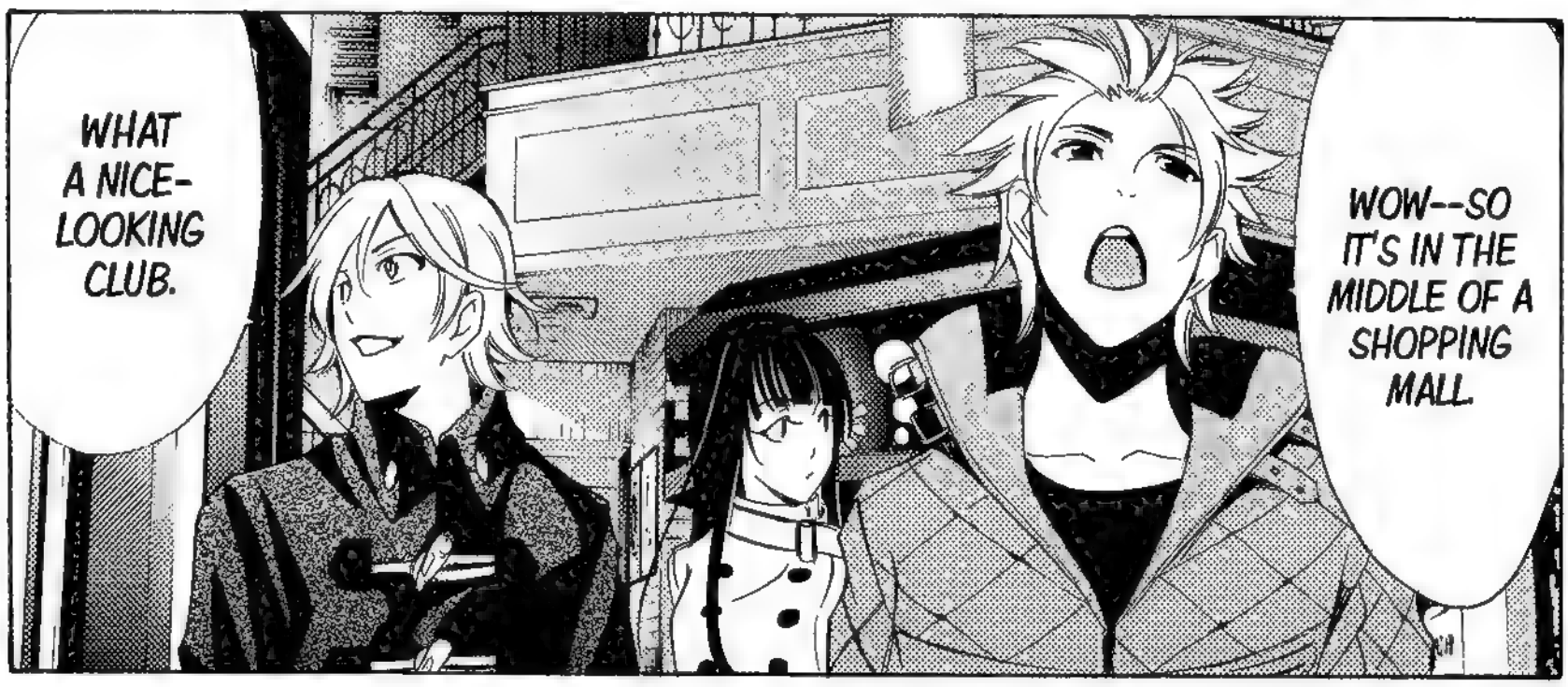
WELL, MY IMAGE OF OSAKA IS THAT IT HAS GREAT FOOD!!

THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ROCK!!

...

# # 128 FRIED SKEWERS!


ROCKTOWN
ROCKTOWN...


WHAT A NICE-LOOKING CLUB.
WOW--SO IT'S IN THE MIDDLE OF A SHOPPING MALL.

IF YOU'D LIKE, I CAN TAKE YOU TO SEE HIM.
I THINK THE GUY IN CHARGE IS WATCHING KAEDE-CHAN'S REHEARSAL NOW.

AH, RIGHT, RIGHT. I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU.
UM, EXCUSE ME. WE'RE BLUE WELLS, ONE OF THE BANDS PLAY-ING HERE TOMORROW.

LET'S GO, YUU-KUN.
OH-- YEAH.

WOW.

SHE'S REALLY GOOD.

THANK YOU FOR HAVING US--

OH! I'M BLUE WELLS' MANAGER, HINOKAMI.

AH, I'M SORRY! I'M YANAGI, THE ONE RUNNIN' THINGS HERE.

GLAD Y'ALL COULD COME!

I SEE! SO Y'ALL GOT TOGETHER!

THAT WAS TOTALLY THE RIGHT MOVE! NO DOUBT!!

HUH ?!

YOU WERE AMAZING! EVEN WITH THE NEW BAND NAME, I KNEW YA AS SOON AS I HEARD YOUR VOICE!!

I SAW Y'ALL AT THE HEDGEHOGS' FESTIVAL!

OKAY, ALL GOOD.

KAEDE AYANAMI. SHE'S NOT WITH ANY AGENCY, BUT SHE'S A GREAT SINGER, NO?

SHE'S THE MOST PROMISING NEW ARTIST AROUND HERE.

U-UM-- WHO'S THAT REHEARS-ING NOW?

HM?

OH, THAT'S KAEDE-CHAN.

HUH?

SURE.

HEY, KAEDE-CHAN! GOT A SEC?

I WANNA INTRO-DUCE YA.

I TOLDJA ABOUT THEM, REMEM-BER?

THE REALLY AMAZIN' ROOKIES AT THE HEDGEHOGS' FESTIVAL.

THEY'RE TRAVELIN' ALL OVER THE COUNTRY ON TOUR NOW.

...

THE STONE ROSES

AH. HI, NICE TO MEET YOU.

I'M THE BASSIST AND VOCALIST, HARUNA.

HUH?!

GRIP

WHA --?

UH...

HEY !!

LEAN 7"

EH...?

TUG

WHAT?! ISN'T THAT KIND OF AMAZING?!

SHE MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT KAEDE-CHAN'S A MED STUDENT AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY.

...

YOU'RE WHITE AS A SHEET!

AND YOU LOOK A LITTLE ANEMIC!!

DID YOU EAT TODAY?!

THE STONE ROSES

UM--

I HAD BREAD AND CUP NOODLES?

WHAT?!

NO, NO, NO! THAT'S NOTHIN' BUT CARBS!

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE SURVIVIN' A TOUR LIKE THAT!

S-SORRY.

AND LOOK AT YOUR ARMS! THEY'RE LIKE TOOTH-PICKS!!

HUH?

HE CAN'T HELP IT.

I MEAN...

WE DON'T HAVE A LOT OF MONEY.

AUGH!!

FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD!!

I'VE GOT A SHOW AFTER THIS...

...SO HANG AROUND HERE UNTIL I'M DONE!!

FRIED PORK SKEWERS ECCHAN

WHA--

YOU'LL GET IN THE WAY OF BUSI-NESS STANDIN' THERE.

GO ON INSIDE.

WOW! FRIED PORK SKEWERS!

B-BUT --!

DRIP じゃる

WE DON'T HAVE MONEY!!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT'S ON ME.

KSHAAA

WHAT?!

HEY, KAEDE-CHAN. DID YOUR CHEST GET BIGGER AGAIN?

YA USED TO BE FLAT AS A PAN-CAKE.

HOW LONG ARE YOU GEEZERS GONNA DRINK ON ONE SKEWER?

BETTER GET HOME OR I'LL TELL YOUR WIVES ON YOU.

HEY, NOW! SHOW YOUR ELDERS SOME RESPECT!

I ONLY SHOW RESPECT TO PEOPLE WHO EARN IT.

WHAT ARE YA SAYIN'?!

JUST GET OUTTA HERE.

DON'T YOU HAVE WORK TOMOR-ROW?

YEAH, YEAH. ALL RIGHT, WE'RE OUTTA HERE.

GOOD LUCK AT SCHOOL.

THANKS! COME AGAIN!

HUH?

ER-

IS THIS WHERE YOU LIVE, KAEDE-SAN?

SURE IS. SORRY IT'S SUCH A DINGY LITTLE HOLE.

SIGN: NO DOUBLE-DIPPING!

OH...

HI, DAD. I'M HOME.

KORIN

WHAT ARE YA THINKIN'?!

HEY, KAEDE!! I TOLD YA NOT TO RUN OFF OUR CUSTOMERS!

THAT'S ONE SCARY-LOOKING GUY.

WHOA...

OH, THEY'RE SOME BAND BUDDIES I MET TODAY.

THEY WERE REALLY HUNGRY, SO FILL 'EM UP, OKAY?

HM?

WHO'RE THESE GUYS?

IF IT'S TOO MUCH TROUBLE, WE'LL GO--

U-UM...

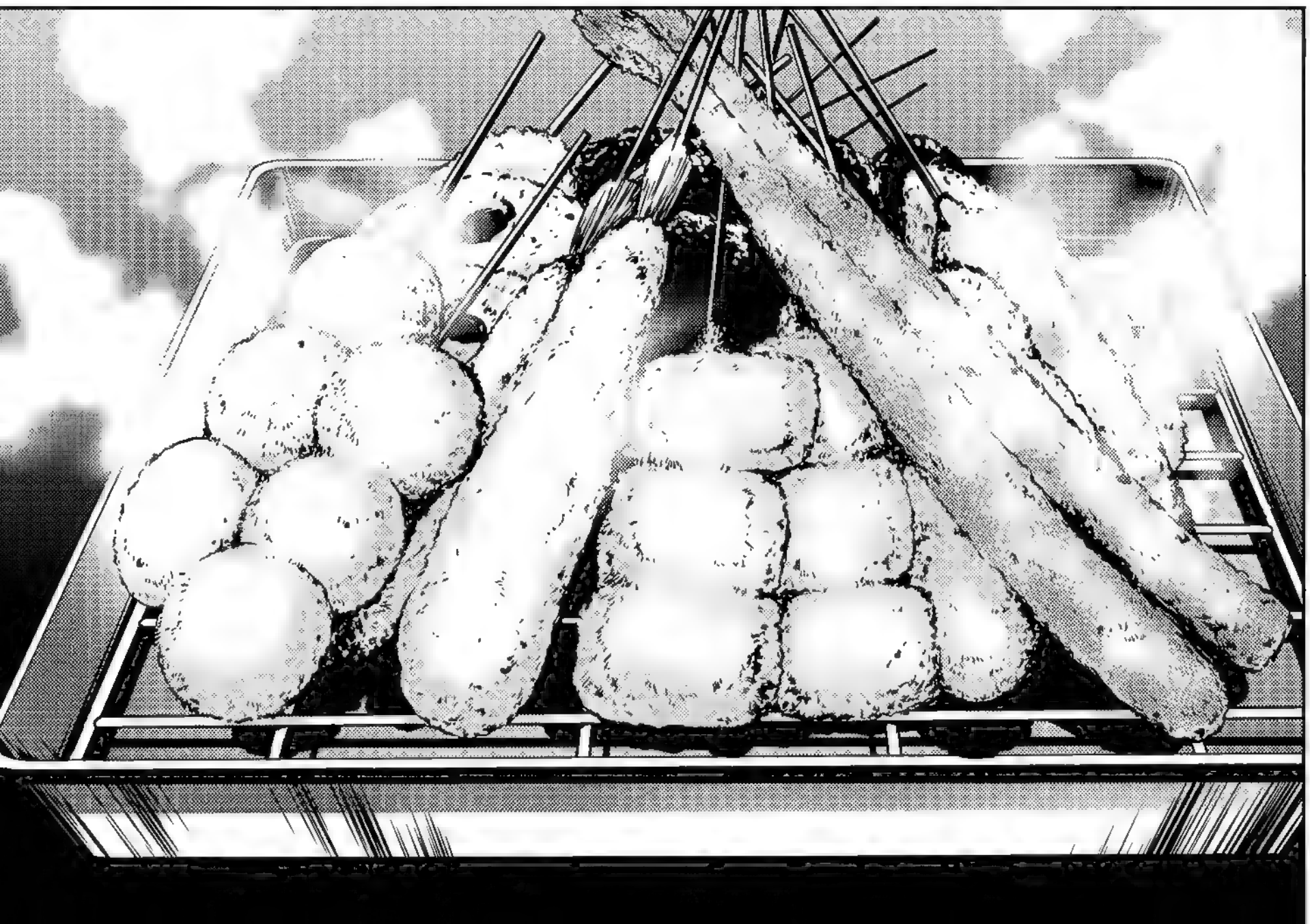
GLARE

...

TH-THANKS.

WITH LOTS OF CABBAGE!

ARE LEFT-OVERS OKAY?



DAMN! THESE ARE AWE-SOME!!

I'VE NEVER HAD PORK SKEWERS BEFORE. THEY'RE VERY GOOD.

IT'S SO GOOD !!

IT'S...

"BWOOSH"

EAT LOTS SO Y'ALL CAN PUT ON A GOOD SHOW TOMORROW!!

OF COURSE THEY ARE! OUR PORK SKEWERS ARE THE BEST IN JAPAN!!

THINK YOU'RE GONNA MAKE IT?

YOUR COM-PANY'S GOIN' UNDER IF Y'ALL DON'T SELL 5,000 CDS? THAT'S ROUGH.

AH!! NACHI-SAN'S EATING GINGKO NUTS!

SHADDUP AND EAT.

RIGHT, DAD?!

OSAKA IS THE BEST! IT'S SUCH A FRIENDLY CITY!!

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

DAAAAZE...

I'M SORRY! WHAT'D YOU SAY?!

OH--!

YEAH!

...

HUH?

YOU'VE BEEN ACTING WEIRD TODAY.

WHAT'S WRONG, YUU-KUN?

SKRUT

UH.. I'M GOING TO THE REST-ROOM.

NOTH-ING'S WRONG..

ARE YOU LISTENING, HARUNA-KUN?

THE SI

!

!!

FWOOMP

!!!

SKRUT

WHA...

YUU-KUN?!

I-I NEVER SAID I'D GO THAT FAR FOR--

KONK ゴチ

SHOVE

WHAT'RE YA DOIN'?! MY DAD'S RIGHT HERE!!

HUH?

WAIT A SEC...

GRIP

HUH?

YOU'RE BURNIN' UP!!

HAHH...

HAHH...

AH.

I'VE BEEN FEELING A LITTLE UNDER THE WEATHER SINCE THIS MORNING...

B-BUT I THINK I'LL BE FINE ONCE I GET SOME SLEEP.

NO, NO, NO!! YOU'D ONLY SLEEP IN YOUR VAN ANYWAY!!

YOU'RE NEVER GONNA GET BETTER THAT WAY!

YOU'RE STAYIN' HERE TONIGHT!

THE ROCK HIBISCUS

UH-- REALLY, THAT'S OKAY..

I TOLD YA IT'S NOT OKAY!!

YOU GOTTA LISTEN TO WHAT MED STUDENTS AND PORK SKEWER SHOP OWNERS SAY!

WHAT DO PORK SKEWERS HAVE TO DO WITH--

YOUR COME-BACKS AREN'T FUNNY AT ALL!

KAEDE.

LAY OUT THE FUTONS.

HM?

WHA...

WHERE AM I?

I REMEMBER EATING FRIED PORK SKEWERS LAST NIGHT...

OH!

THAT'S RIGHT! THE CONCERT --!!

RUSTLE

# 129 KAEDE'S CIRCUMSTANCES.

GOOD MORNING!

SIGN: FRIED PORK SKEWERS ECCHAN

UM... HOW IS YUU-KUN DOING?

O-OH-- GOOD MORNING.

ACTUALLY... HE JUST WOKE UP NOT LONG AGO.

BUT HE FELL ASLEEP AGAIN.

HE MUST'VE REALLY BEEN EXHAUSTED. HE'S STILL RUNNIN' A FEVER, TOO.

WELL-- I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO JUST GO ON WITH-OUT HIM TODAY.

YEAH. I CAN PLAY THE BASS.

MAN, WE'VE GOT ONE WIMP OF A VOCALIST.

IT SURE HELPS TO HAVE TWO GUITARISTS AND VOCALISTS AT A TIME LIKE THIS!

ALL RIGHT, WE'LL BE BACK THIS EVENING.

I'M SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE, BUT PLEASE LET HIM REST A BIT LONGER.

S-SURE! NO SWEAT!!

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR SHOW!

I WASN'T LYING...

WELL...

WHY ARE YOU DOWN HERE?!

YOU'VE STILL GOT A FEVER, SO GET UP THERE AND REST!

THE OTHERS WERE JUST HERE, WEREN'T THEY?

I HAVE TO GO, TOO.

EX-CUSE ME...

IT'LL BE FINE.

THEY SEEMED SURE THEY'D GET ON JUST FINE WITHOUT YA.

BESIDES, IF YOU PERFORM LOOKIN' LIKE THAT AND PEOPLE THINK I HIT A SICK KID, MY REPUTATION'S SUNK.

B-BUT I HAVE TO GO--!

HUH?

HUH...?

...

...

IT'S FINE... THE BAND WILL BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT ME ANYWAY.

HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA SULK FOR? WHAT A PAIN YOU ARE.

HEY, NO ONE SAID THAT.

THEY WERE REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YA.

SHEESH. GUESS YA FEEL A LOT BETTER THAN YA LOOK.

YEAH.

EXCLUDING WHEN I GOT SLUGGED EARLIER.

...

IT'S OKAY.

DON'T BOTHER WITH ME.

WHY COULDN'T YOU HAVE CHANGED SOMEWHERE ELSE, THEN?

THERE'S ANOTHER ROOM NEXT DOOR, YOU KNOW.

ANYONE WOULD FLY OFF THE HANDLE IF SOMEONE SAW 'EM NAKED!!

I CAN'T GO IN THERE.

THAT'S A FORBIDDEN ROOM.

IT USED TO BE MY MOM AND DAD'S ROOM...

...BUT SINCE MY MOM DIED OF ILLNESS TEN YEARS AGO, NO ONE'S GONE IN THERE.

MY DAD AND I BOTH SLEEP IN THIS ROOM NOW.

...

FOR-BIDDEN ROOM?

AT THIS POINT, IT'S JUST HARD TO KNOW THE RIGHT TIMING TO GO IN.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

AH, IT'S FINE.

HUH?

I'M SORRY.

UM...

...HOW THAT FEELS.

I CAN KIND OF UNDER-STAND...

BUT...

HUH?

IT'S NOT EVEN ABOUT THAT, REALLY.

...NAH.

OH.

YOU--

...

HUH?

YOUR LAST CON-CERT...

YOU'RE NOT QUITTING MUSIC, ARE YOU?

OH, SORRY 'BOUT THAT. I'M JUST THINKIN' OF LYRICS FOR A NEW SONG TO SING AT MY LAST CONCERT.

THE MUSIC'S DONE, BUT I CAN'T THINK OF ANY GOOD LYRICS.

WELL, YEAH. IN ANOTHER YEAR, I'M TAKIN' THE NATIONAL EXAM TO BECOME A DOCTOR.

THAT'S GONNA TAKE A LOT OF STUDYING.

BOOK: LAUBHAN PATHOLOGY, COLOR HISTOLOGY

NOTHIN' I CAN DO.

OUR SHOP'S SO POOR, WE CAN'T AFFORD TO HIRE HELP.

NO WAY!

THAT'D BE A WASTE!!

YOU'RE SUCH A GREAT SINGER!

I CAN PUT HIM MORE AT EASE BY BECOMING A DOCTOR THAN BY KEEPIN' UP A MUSIC CAREER WITH ZERO SECURITY.

AND DAD'S GETTIN' UP THERE IN YEARS. HE CAN'T KEEP THIS UP FOREVER.

BUT...

...

NO--

THAT'S JUST ANOTHER WAY TO LIVE.

THERE ARE SOME DREAMS YOU CAN ONLY FIND BY THROW-ING AWAY OLD ONES.

JEEZ.

THERE'S THAT FACE AGAIN.

YEAH, BUT--!

I'M SORRY.

I KNOW IT'S NOT MY PLACE TO INTER-FERE.

HEY, KAEDE! YOU IN THERE?

I'M COMIN' IN.

KNOCK

KNOCK

KNOCK

WHAT...

...SO Y'WERE IN HERE?

HI

RATTLE

HUH?

WHY NOT? WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOREVER.

AND WHO'S THAT KID, ANYWAY?

HIDE-YUKI!

WHO SAID YOU COULD COME IN HERE?!

UM, I'M--

AH--

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!!

A FEVER? WHAT KINDA SKEWERS ARE Y'ALL SERVIN' HERE?

HUH?

HE'S A RELATIVE.

HE'S HERE VISITING, AND HE CAME DOWN WITH A FEVER WHILE HE WAS EATIN' OUR SKEWERS, SO WE'RE HAVIN' HIM REST HERE.

WELL, WHAT-EVER.

ANYWAY, DID YA MAKE UP YOUR MIND YET? I CAME TO GET YOUR ANSWER.

HUH?

MAKE UP MY MIND ABOUT WHAT?

HOW LONG DO YA THINK I'VE BEEN TRYIN' TO PROPOSE?! EVER SINCE WE WERE IN GRADE SCHOOL!!

ABOUT MARRYING ME!!

...

THAT'LL CHANGE IF YA MARRY ME!!

WELL, SORRY. I DON'T LOVE YOU.

YOU KNOW WHY!

BE-CAUSE I LOVE YOU!!

YEAH, UH--

WHY EXACTLY DO I HAVE TO MARRY YOU?

BE-SIDES...

SHOULD I LEAVE THE ROOM?

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

...IT'S NO WONDER YOUR PROFITS ARE LOUSY AND ALL YOUR CUSTOMERS ARE CREEPS.

IF YA KEEP SERVING CHEAP SKEWERS AT THIS GRUBBY LITTLE RESTAURANT...

SIGNS: FRIED PORK SKEWERS ECCHAN

I'M SAYING...

N-NO ONE ASKED FOR YOUR OPINION!

WHAT ARE YOU EVEN TALKING ABOUT?!

WHA--

IF YA MARRY ME, MY COMPANY WILL MAKE IT PART OF ITS CHAIN AND CLEAN IT UP NICE.

AND THEY'LL COME UP WITH MORE PROFITABLE MENU ITEMS.

THEN IT'LL BE EASIER ON YOUR OLD MAN, AND YOU CAN KEEP MAKIN' MUSIC.

UM --!

TH-THE SKEWERS HERE ARE THE BEST IN JAPAN..

SO I THINK IT'S FINE THE WAY IT IS NOW.

HARUNA-KUN..

I'M SUR-PRISED YOU CAN SAY THAT AFTER THEIR SKEWERS GAVE YA A FEVER.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY 'BOUT ME.

I'M GONNA QUIT MUSIC AND BECOME A DOCTOR SO I CAN LOOK AFTER MY DAD.

TH-THAT WASN'T BECAUSE OF THE SKEWERS.

NEVER GONNA HAPPEN.

WHAT?! YOU MAKIN' FUN OF ME?!

I HAPPEN TO BE AN EXCELLENT STUDENT!

I DIDN'T MEAN THAT.

YOU REALLY LOVE MUSIC, DON'T YA?

AIN'T NO WAY YOU CAN QUIT NOW.

ALL RIGHT, FINE.

I'LL COME BACK WHEN YOUR DAD'S HERE!

ガラ ガラ ガラ

SLIDE

WHOA!

I DEFINITELY NEVER ASKED FOR THAT OPINION!!

JUST GET OUTTA HERE! I'M BUSY!!

UM--

OH, SORRY YA HAD TO HEAR ALL THAT.

GOOD THING DAD'S ALREADY AT WORK.

IF HIDEYUKI TALKED TO HIM ABOUT THAT, HE'D MAKE ME DATE HIM.

NO...

I SHOULD APOLOGIZE TO YOU...

...FOR SAYING SOMETHING LIKE THAT OUT OF THE BLUE.

I WOULDN'T SAY THAT.

IT'S FINE...

THANKS.

YOU UNDERSTAND OBLIGATION AND HUMANITY WAY BETTER THAN HE DOES.

!!

WH-WHAT WAS THAT?!

CRASH

WHA--

...

O-OKAY.

CREAK

CREAK

HARUNA-KUN, TAKE THE BAT.

IT'S NOT A BURGLAR, IS IT?

DAD--?

SHIVER

WE'VE RUN VARIOUS TESTS...

診療科目
内科 呼吸器科 食道器科
理学診療科 リハビリテーション
外来・入院 平日 AM 8:00
土曜日 AM 9:00

Fuuka

SIGN: INTERNAL, PULMONARY, AND ESOPHAGEAL TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION DEPARTMENT
OUT-PATIENT AND IN-PATIENT CARE. WEEKDAYS - OPEN 8:00 AM. WEEKENDS - OPEN 9:00 AM

MOST LIKELY IT'S JUST EXHAUS-TION.

...BUT EVERYTHING CAME UP NEGATIVE.

I'LL PRE-SCRIBE SOME MEDICA-TION FOR HIM...

...BUT PLEASE TELL HIM NOT TO OVERDO IT.

THANK YOU SO MUCH.

I'VE GIVEN HIM SOME-THING TO HELP HIM SLEEP.

HE'LL STAY HERE TONIGHT, BUT HE CAN GO HOME TOMORROW.

PA-TAK

# Fuuka

## # 130 THAT FEELING!

THANKS, HIDEYUKI.

I WAS IN A TOTAL PANIC...

IF YOU HADN'T COME BACK, I DUNNO WHAT I WOULD'VE DONE.

W-WELL, JUST BE GLAD...

...IT WASN'T ANYTHING SERIOUS.

TRY NOT TO GIVE ME A HEART ATTACK, WOULD YA?

I FREAKED OUT WHEN I HEARD YOU SCREAM.

...

SORRY TO YOU TOO, HARUNA-KUN.

I KNOW YOU'RE SICK AS WELL.

NO, REALLY-- I'M ALMOST COM-PLETELY BETTER NOW.

I'M SO PATHET-IC.

THIS IS JUST LIKE WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE.

HUH?

WHEN MY MOM SUDDENLY GOT SICK, I JUST PANICKED AND COULDN'T DO ANYTHING.

SO I THOUGHT, IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO DAD, I WANTED TO BE ABLE TO HELP.

THAT'S WHY I WANTED TO BE A DOCTOR.

BUT YOU COULDN'T HELP THAT.

ANYONE WOULD PANIC IF THEY SAW THAT HAPPEN TO ONE OF THEIR PARENTS.

BUT STILL...

L-LISTEN-- I KNOW THIS MIGHT NOT BE THE RIGHT TIME, BUT...

WOULD YOU GIVE SOME SERIOUS THOUGHT TO MARRYING ME?

HUH?

...

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU WANT TO BECOME A DOCTOR TO HELP YOUR DAD AND THE SHOP.

BUT EVEN IF YOU DO MANAGE TO PASS THE EXAM, IT WON'T BE FOR ANOTHER YEAR.

AND THEN, IF YA GOTTA BE A RESIDENT OR WHATEVER FIRST...

...

...IT'LL BE AT LEAST THREE YEARS BEFORE YA START TO MAKE A DECENT LIVING.

WOULDN'T IT BE KINDA CRUEL TO MAKE YOUR DAD...

...RUN THE SHOP ON HIS OWN UNTIL THEN?

YOU'LL EVEN BE ABLE TO KEEP DOIN' THE MUSIC YOU LOVE.

IF YOU MARRY ME, I'LL MAKE SURE THE SHOP GETS REMODELED AND HIRE YA SOME HELP.

LIKE I TOLD YA BEFORE-- I REALLY AM IN LOVE WITH YOU.

JUST THINK ABOUT IT, ALL RIGHT?

SO...

BEST WISHES TO YOUR DAD.

PA-TAK

...

KA-CHAK

WELL.

I'VE GOTTA GET TO WORK.

...

WOOOO

ROCK TOWN

HI! NICE TO MEET YOU ALL!

WE'RE BLUE WELLS! IT'S GREAT TO BE HERE!!

...BUT WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO COVER FOR HIM, SO WE HOPE YOU HAVE FUN!!

...

UNFORTU-NATELY, ONE OF OUR MEMBERS IS DOWN WITH A FEVER TODAY...

AFTER JUST TOURIN' FOR A LITTLE WHILE?! THAT WEAKLING!!

A FEVER?!

WOOO

WHEN I INVITED THEM HERE...

...THIS AIN'T THE BAND I WANTED TO SEE!!

WHAT'RE YOU SO ANGRY ABOUT, YANAGI-SAN?

THEY'RE STILL WORKIN' UP THE CROWD JUST FINE.

THIS AIN'T IT!!

BA-BUM

FOR ONE THING, THAT AMAZING GUITARIST OF THEIRS IS PLAYIN' THE BASS NOW...

BUM

BUM

AND ONE OF THE DUAL VOCALISTS CAME DOWN WITH A FEVER AND COULDN'T MAKE IT!

!!

!!

I THINK THEY'RE DOIN' PRETTY GOOD, MYSELF.

ARE THEY?

WHAT THE HECK'S GOIN' ON?! THIS BAND'S NOWHERE NEAR WHAT I SAW AT THAT FESTIVAL!!

THEY'RE WEAK!! SO WEAK!

WOOOO

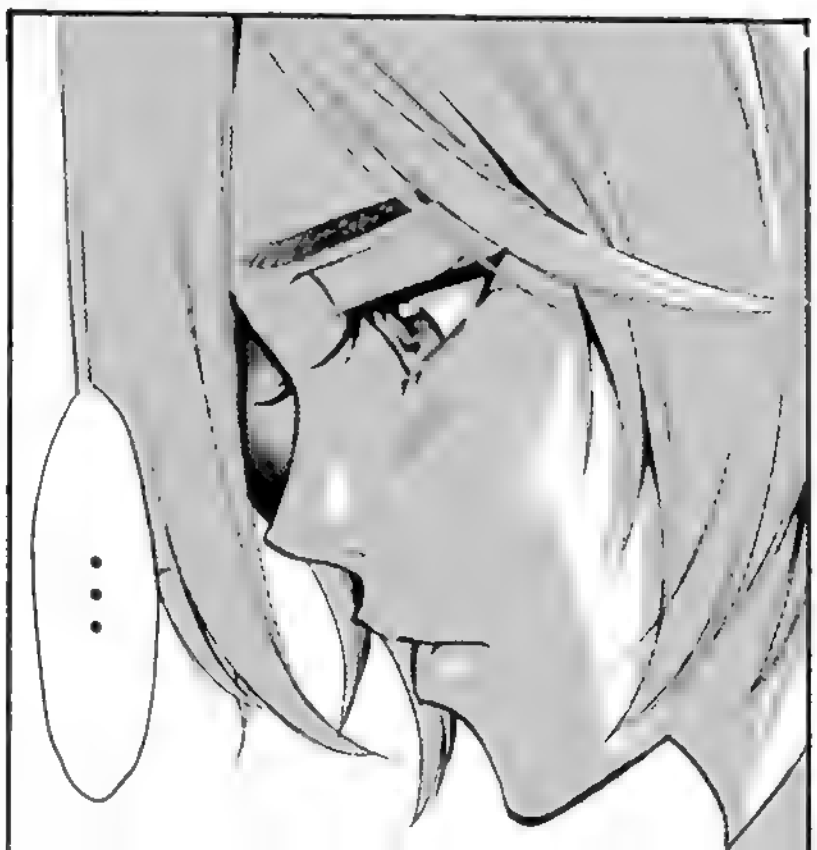
HUH? BUT THAT'S AEDE-CHAN'S SOLO GIG.

I SAID ADD' EM!!

ADD 'EM TO THE LINEUP FOR THE SHOW IN TWO DAYS!!

NO, NO, NO!! THEY'RE GONNA HAVE TO DO IT OVER!

TAK
TAK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WOW, MOM! LOOK!!
THE SUNSET'S SO PRETTY!
MY, IT SURE IS.

AH--
YES?

HEY-

HA-
RUNA-
KUN.

MAYBE-

I WILL MARRY
HIDEYUKI.

AND HE SAID
HE REALLY
DOES LOVE
ME.

IT'S NOT
LIKE HE'S A
BAD GUY.

HUH
?

BUT I THINK THAT'S WHAT WOULD BE BEST FOR DAD.

IT WOULD MEAN THE SHOP WOULD GET REVAMPED...

...STILL BE A MUSICIAN?

THEN YOU'LL...

...

...NAH.

AS OF TODAY, I'M GONNA QUIT AND BECOME A DOCTOR.

IF I DON'T...

...I'LL BE AN EMBARRASSMENT TO HIDEYUKI.

HIS FAMILY OWNS A REALLY SUCCESSFUL FRIED PORK SKEWER RESTAURANT CHAIN.

IT'D LOOK BAD FOR THEM IF THE WIFE OF THEIR HEIR INSISTED ON STAYING A NO-NAME MUSICIAN FOREVER.

ARE YOU SURE...

...THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT?

THAT DOESN'T MATTER. IT'S THE BEST ANSWER.

THAT'S WHAT'LL MAKE EVERYONE HAPPY, RIGHT?

WELL, THE OWNER OF THAT LIVE MUSIC CLUB WILL BE MAD, BUT THERE'S NO HELPIN' THAT.

THEN...

WHY DO YOU HAVE THAT LOOK ON YOUR FACE?

MAKE MY DAD KEEP WORKIN' UNTIL HE COLLAPSES AGAIN?!

WELL, WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO, THEN?!

BUT THERE ARE THINGS IN THIS WORLD THAT DON'T WORK OUT. NO MATTER HOW HARD YA TRY!

YOU'RE JUST HAVIN' FUN BEIN' IN A BAND WITH YOUR BUDDIES. SO YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND!!



BUT I'VE HAD ENOUGH.

I CAN'T STAND TO SEE ANYONE ELSE I LOVE DISAP-PEAR.

I REAL-LY-

-LOVE MUSIC A LOT.

WHOOSH

IF YOU'RE REALLY A MUSICIAN-

BUT IF YOU LOVE MUSIC-

WELL, THEN-

YOU'RE RIGHT.

IT'S NOT MY PLACE TO COMMENT ABOUT WHAT YOU SHOULD DO WITH YOUR LIFE.

...

THEN AT LEAST IN THE VERY END...

...SHOULDN'T YOU WRITE THAT FEELING INTO A SONG?

...HUH?

WHETHER IT'S DESPAIR OR DISCOURAGEMENT...

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT IT IS.

BUT I BELIEVE IT'S A SONG THAT ONLY YOU CAN CREATE RIGHT NOW!

A SONG THAT...

...ONLY I CAN CREATE?

BUT I THINK THAT'S WHAT HELPED ME GET TO WHERE I AM NOW.

NO MATTER HOW PAINFUL...

OR HOW SAD...

OF COURSE...

...I'M JUST PASSING ON ADVICE A MORE EXPERIENCED BAND GAVE ME.

WHA...

RUB ゴシ

RUB ゴシ

LITTLE KID, TALKIN' LIKE SOME EXPERT.

JUST LISTEN TO YA.

I'LL WRITE THE NUMBER ONE SONG IN ALL JAPAN-- ONE ONLY I CAN WRITE!!

IF YOU'RE GONNA PUT IT THAT WAY, I'LL DO IT!

ROCKTOWN

20XX . 12 . 29

綾波桃

ONE MAN LIVE!

OPEN 17:30 START 18:00

Fuuka

PLEASE STAND IN LINE!

WE'LL CHECK YOUR TICKETS HERE!

I'LL QUIT MUSIC AND MARRY YOU.

SO, COME TO MY LAST SHOW. IF YA CAN.

...

WHO ACCEPTS A PROPOSAL WITH THAT LOOK ON THEIR FACE?

HUH?! WHAT DO YOU MEAN, A TICKET?!

EXACTLY WHAT I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU.

HUH?

AND I CAN'T HEAR KAEDE SING WITH-OUT ONE OF THOSE?!

POPS! WHAT ARE YOU DOIN' HERE?

SHOULDN'T YOU STILL BE RESTING?

AH, HIDEYUKI. PERFECT TIMING.

YOU GOT ONE O' THESE TICKET THINGS ON YA?

I FIGURED I SHOULD SEE 'ER AT LEAST ONCE.

Y'KNOW, SEE WHAT IT IS SHE DOES AT THESE THINGS.

ROCK TOWN

YEAH, WELL--

FOR KAEDE'S SHOW? UNUSUAL FOR YOU TO COME TO ONE OF THESE.

ACTUALLY, ISN'T THIS THE FIRST TIME?

# # 131 WISHES AND HOPES.

IMAGINE. ONE OF THE BANDS THAT GOT THE MOST ATTENTION AT THE HEDGE-HOGS' FESTIVAL IS HERE AS MY OPENER!

MAN. IF THIS AIN'T A THRILL!

THANKS FOR HAVING US!!

RIGHT! WE WILL!!

DO YOUR BEST TO GET THE CROWD WARMED UP FOR ME! I'M EXPECTIN' A GOOD SHOW!

DON'T TELL ANYONE THAT I'M QUITTIN' MUSIC AS OF TODAY.

...

...WHEN THINGS GET ALL GLOOMY.

IT'S ALMOST TIME.

I CAN'T STAND IT-

I CAN ONLY GIVE YA TIME TO PLAY ONE SONG.

I WAS THE ONE WHO FORCED 'EM TO MAKE Y'ALL THE OPENER TONIGHT.

HUH?

YOU KIDS GET IT, DON'T YA?

I WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY WITH ANOTHER SHODDY SHOW LIKE TWO NIGHTS AGO!!

WHICH IS WHY YOU HAVE TO PUT YOUR ALL INTO THAT ONE SONG AND MAKE IT BETTER THAN YOUR FESTIVAL PERFORMANCE!!

SO WE KNOW WITHOUT A DOUBT NOW.

HUH? KNOW WHAT?

WELL... WE DID THE BEST WE COULD, OF COURSE.

YEAH...

UM...

HOW DID THE THINGS GO, EXACTLY?

...REALLY NEEDS YUU HARUNA IN IT.

THAT THIS BAND...

HEAR THAT? THEY REALLY CARE ABOUT YA.

AIN'T THAT NICE, HARUNA-KUN?

YEAH.

UH--

C-COULD YOU SAY THAT ONE MORE TIME?

HUH?

HUH?

YAMMER

COME ON, JUST ONE MORE TIME!!

AND DON'T CALL ME CREEPY, SERIOUSLY!!

...

YAMMER

YUU-KUN, YOU'RE MAKING A CREEPY FACE.

DON'T BE A DOOFUS, HARUNA. LET'S GET GOING.

OH, NOTHIN'.

JUST SAYIN' LIFE SURE ISN'T FAIR.

WHAT?

MUST BE NICE.

THEY REALLY ARE JUST HAVIN' FUN.

MURMUR
MURMUR
MURMUR

SHE'S AWFUL POP-ULAR.
THESE GUY'S'RE ALL HERE TO HEAR KAEDE SING?
YEP.
SHE'S PRETTY WELL-KNOWN AROUND HERE.

FOOL!!
HOW LONG DO YA THINK I'VE BEEN MAKIN' FRIED SKEWERS?!
AIN'T NO WAY I COULD RUN THE SHOP IF I WORE OUT AFTER TWO HOURS!!

MORE IMPORTANT, POPS, IF YOU START FEELIN' BAD, LET ME KNOW.
WE'LL BE ON OUR FEET FOR CLOSE TO TWO HOURS.

HEY, YOU'RE PRETTY SPUNKY CONSIDERIN' YOU JUST PASSED OUT.
I WAS JUST TAKIN' A LITTLE SNOOZE IN FRONT OF THE SHOP 'CAUSE I WAS SLEEPY!
AND Y'ALL HAD TO DO A FOOL THING LIKE CALL AN AMBULANCE FOR THAT!!
SORRY?

FLASH!!

HM?

HI, EVERY-ONE!! WE'RE BLUE WELLS!

WE WERE BROUGHT IN AS THE OPENING ACT AT THE LAST MINUTE, SO WE HOPE YOU LIKE WHAT YOU HEAR!!

IT'S...

...THAT KID.

I CAN'T DO ANYTHING FOR HER...

...BUT I WANT HER TO HEAR THIS, AT LEAST.

HUH? NOT "FOR YOU"?

NO-- THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I WANT TO DO TODAY.

I WANT KAEDE-SAN TO HEAR THIS SONG!!

THIS IS "FAIR WIND"!

BUM!!

BUM!!

BUM!!

BUM!!

BUM!!

...

BUM!!

BUM!!

BUM!!

BUM!!

BUM!!

WOO
WOO
WOO

THIS IS EXACTLY IT!!

ROOOOAR

SHIVER

SHIVER

THI-

THIS IS IT.

THIS IS NOTHIN' LIKE THE REACTION TWO NIGHTS AGO!!

SEE THAT?! THE CROWD DOESN'T LIE!!

YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING.

WOW.

HUH?

THIS IS MY FAVORITE SONG OF THEIRS!

...CREATE SUCH GOOD MUSIC?

HOW CAN KIDS WHO ARE YOUNGER THAN ME...

BECAUSE THIS IS THE SONG THAT HARUNA-SAN...

TWO

...PACKED ALL HIS WISHES AND HOPES INTO!!

WISHES... AND HOPES?

FO

ORIGINALLY HARUNA-SAN'S GIRLFRIEND WAS THIS BAND'S VOCALIST.

BUT SHE DIED IN A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT LAST YEAR.

THE MEMBERS WENT THEIR SEPARATE WAYS, AND IT LOOKED LIKE THE BAND WAS DONE FOR...

BUT THEN HARUNA-SAN WROTE THIS SONG AND CALLED THEM ALL BACK!!

!!

AND BY THE WAY, AOI-SAN...

...IS THE DAUGHTER OF THE MAN WHO CAUSED THE ACCIDENT!

WHA--

WOW

I'M A TOTAL OUTSIDER, SO I CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW THEY FEEL.

BUT THE ONE THING I CAN SAY IS...

THEY'RE NOT JUST KEEPING THE BAND GOING TO HAVE FUN!

FOO

FOO

!!

?!

BA-DUM

THEY'RE AS FIRED UP...

...AND AWESOME AS THEY CAN BE!!

SHOULDN'T YOU WRITE THAT FEELING INTO A SONG?

WHETHER IT'S DESPAIR OR DISCOUR-AGEMENT... IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT IT IS.

/--

NO MATTER HOW PAINFUL... OR HOW SAD...

I THINK THAT'S WHAT HELPED ME GET TO WHERE I AM NOW.

BUT THERE ARE THINGS IN THIS WORLD THAT DON'T WORK OUT, NO MATTER HOW HARD YA TRY!!

YOU'RE JUST HAVIN' FUN BEIN' IN A BAND WITH YOUR BUDIES, SO YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND!!

CLENCH

I SAID SUCH MEAN THINGS TO HIM.

HUH?

I UNDERSTAND NOW HOW HARUNA-KUN FEELS.

WOO

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!

IT AIN'T NEARLY AS COOL OR AS PASSIONATE AS YOUR SONG...

BUT STILL, MAKE SURE YOU LISTEN.

TOO

TO MY WISHES AND HOPES.

TO THE SONG ONLY I CAN CREATE...

OO

WOW

OF

KAEDE'S PERFOR-MANCES ARE ALWAYS AWESOME!

...

OF

JUST SOUNDS LIKE A BUNCH OF BANGIN' AND NOISE TO ME.

THIS IS GOOD?

OF

# 132 WHAT THE FAMILY WAS LIKE.

KAEDE-SAN SURE IS A FANTASTIC SINGER.

SHE IS! AND SHE'S SO TALL AND PRETTY. IT'S LIKE SHE BELONGS ON THE STAGE.

HMM. WELL, IT AIN'T BAD, BUT...

IT'S LIKE SHE'S HOLDIN' BACK, OR MAYBE PANDERING.

I FEEL LIKE HER SONG'S LACKIN' SOMETHING.

IF SHE COULD GET PAST THAT, SHE COULD SHOOT WAY HIGHER!

WAY HIGHER !!

IF YOU'RE GONNA PUT IT THAT WAY, I'LL DO IT!

I'LL WRITE THE NUMBER ONE SONG IN ALL JAPAN-- ONE ONLY I CAN WRITE!!

...

I'M REALLY SAD TO SAY IT, BUT THIS NEXT SONG WILL BE MY LAST.

THANKS FOR COMING TODAY, EVERY-ONE!

LET US HEAR A FEW MORE!

WHAT? IT'S OVER ALREADY?!

MY LAST SONG IS A NEW ONE. HOPE YA LIKE IT.

YEAH... YA WOULDN'T WANNA MISS THE LAST TRAIN.

REALLY? SHOULD I START OVER FROM THE BEGIN-NING, THEN?

WE'LL MISS THE LAST TRAIN!!

AH HA HA HA! DO IT, DO IT!!

WHAT?

BUT THERE'S JUST ONE MORE SONG!!

I'VE HAD ENOUGH. MY EARS HURT. I'M GOIN' HOME.

"MY DAD'S FRIED PORK SKEWERS."

BE SURE YA LISTEN GOOD, HARUNA-KUN.

...

SEEMS LIKE IT.

WHAT'S THAT? A BALLAD?

"LONG BEFORE I WAS BORN, MY MOM AND DAD WERE FRYING UP PORK SKEWERS."

"THE SOUND OF OIL POPPING, THE SMELL OF THE SAUCE..."

SIGN: FRIED PORK SKEWERS ECCHAN

"...MY DAD WOULD GET SO GRUMPY."

"WHEN CUSTOMERS TEASED THAT THE STORE WAS NAMED AFTER MY MOM..."

THE FOOD'S SO GOOD, THOUGH!

...

OH_ I KNOW THAT PLACE! FRIED PORK SKEWERS ECCHAN, RIGHT?!

I'VE BEEN THERE! HE REALLY DID GET MAD WHEN WE TALKED ABOUT THE NAME.

"WHEN I GOT LONELY AND DECIDED TO GO TO BED, THAT'S WHEN I HEARD THEM COMING UP THE STAIRS, AND I WAS SO HAPPY."

"IT'S IN BUSINESS ALL YEAR ROUND, SO I ALWAYS ATE DINNER ALONE..."

"THEIR VOICES FLOATING IN FROM NEXT DOOR WERE A LULLABY THAT CALMED ME AND PUT ME TO SLEEP..."

"THEY'D HAVE THEIR DINNER AND DRINKS WHILE TALK-ING QUIETLY, SO THEY WOULDN'T WAKE ME."

"I THOUGHT MOM AND DAD WOULD STILL BE FRYING UP PORK SKEWERS EVEN AFTER I GREW UP."

"THE SOUND OF OIL POPPING, THE SMELL OF THE SAUCE..."

POPS-

...

"...WAS THE FIRST TIME..."

"...I EVER SAW MY DAD CRY."

"BUT THE DAY MOM PASSED OUT AND TOOK THE DAY OFF ALONE..."

"...FLOATING IN FROM THE NEXT ROOM."

"I STOPPED HEARING THAT LULLABY..."

"NOW IT'S A FOR-BIDDEN ROOM NO ONE MAY ENTER."

"BECAUSE IT FEELS LIKE SOMETHING WILL TRULY COME TO AN END IF THAT DOOR IS OPENED..."

KAEDE...

ズキン
TWINGE

...

AH--

POPS!

HMPH.

"SO IT'S STILL THE FORBIDDEN ROOM, NEVER OPENED."

"I FINISHED IT UP, SO I HOPE YOU'LL WEAR IT, DAD."

"THE HAT THAT MOM NEVER FINISHED KNITTING..."

"...BUT PLEASE WAIT JUST A BIT LONGER."

"THERE'S NOT MUCH ELSE I CAN DO RIGHT NOW..."

"BACK IN THAT PLACE I LOVE SO MUCH..."

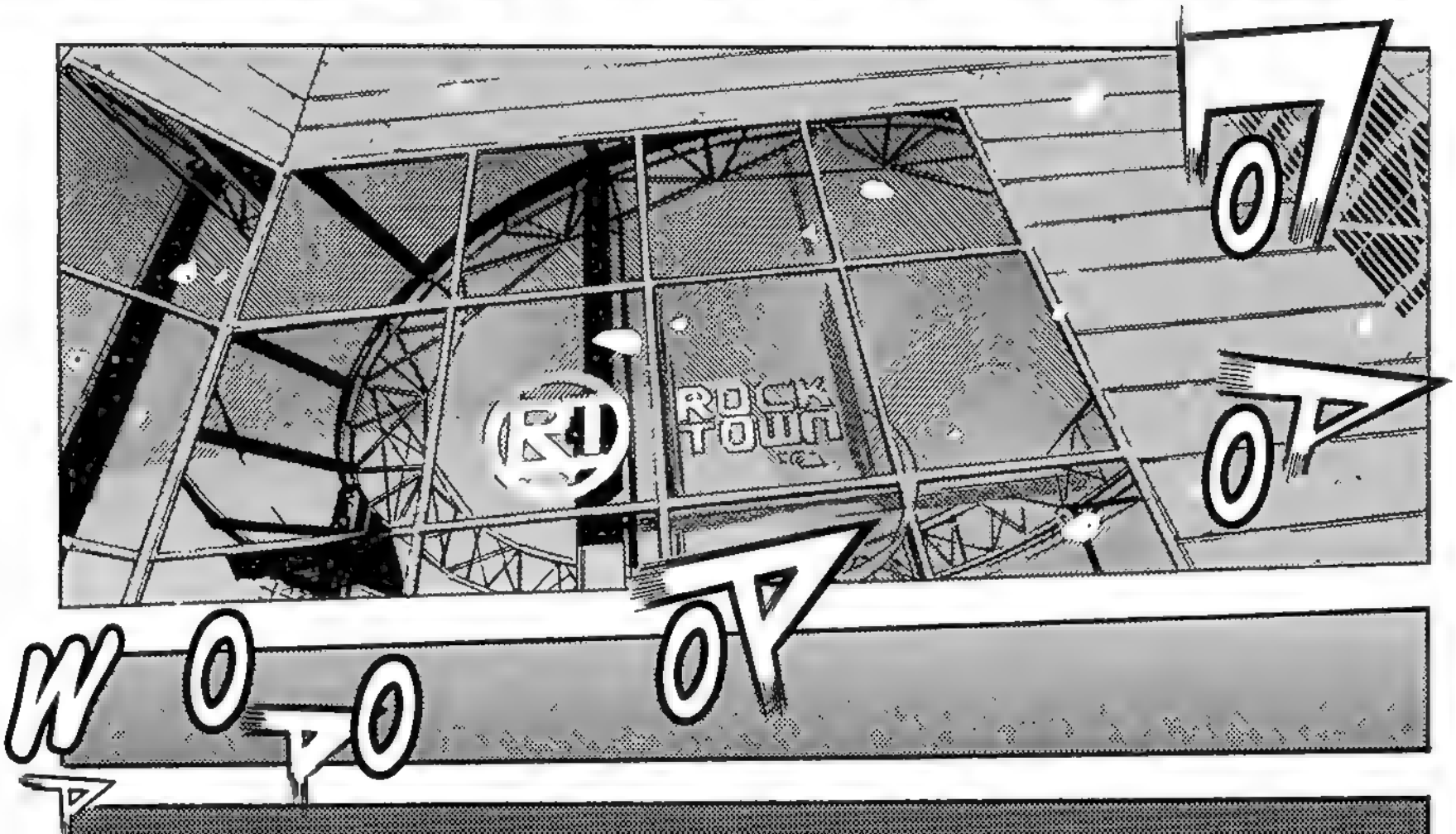
...

"I'M SURE DAD'S FRYING UP PORK SKEWERS AGAIN TODAY."

"THE SOUND OF OIL POPPING, THE SMELL OF THE SAUCE..."

"THOSE AMA-ZINGLY DELI-CIOUS..."

"...BEST FRIED PORK SKEWERS IN JAPAN."



KAEDE-CHAN, YOU'RE THE BEST!! THAT-- THAT WAS SUCH A GREAT SONG!!

BAM

WHOA !!

RIGHT?! YOU THOUGHT SO TOO, RIGHT?

I CAME TO TALK TO HER BECAUSE HER SONG MOVED ME TOO, BUT...

HUH?

WHERE'S KAEDE-CHAN?

NO IDEA...

SHE'S GONNA GO WAY HIGHER! I'VE GOTTA GET HER NEXT GIG SCHEDULED!!

Y-YEAH.

SHE BECAME A NEW HER, TWICE OVER!

キィィ…
KREEEK
TMP
カツ…
カツ…
TMP
!!
TWITCH
UH…
KAEDE-SAN?

MY FACE IS PROBABLY AN AWFUL SIGHT!

SORRY!!

DON'T COME OVER HERE RIGHT NOW!

I'M SORRY.

...

REALLY?

...

I CRIED A LITTLE.

TO BE HONEST...

PFFT

YOUR SONG... WAS REALLY GREAT.

I JUST NEEDED TO TELL YOU THAT.

...

HEARIN' THAT FROM YOU MEANS I CAN WALK AWAY WITH NO REGRETS.

I CAN QUIT MUSIC AND NEVER LOOK BACK.

HUH?

THAT'S...

...WHAT I THOUGHT, BUT...

IT'S NO USE.

AFTER HEARIN' THAT, I--

EVERYONE IN THE AUDIENCE WAS BAWLING.

THEY TOLD ME I WAS AMAZING... THE BEST.

...AND PLAYIN' MY BEST BECAUSE I KNEW IT WOULD BE MY LAST..

AFTER PUTTING ALL MY FEELINGS INTO A SONG FOR THE FIRST TIME...

SOMEHOW, I JUST...

...DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS I WANT TO DO ANYMORE.

KAEDE-SAN...

WHA--

UH...

FWUMP

HUH?

MY DAD WAS IN THE AUDIENCE TONIGHT.

I WONDER HOW HE FELT. A SONG LIKE THAT PROB-ABLY MADE HIM PRETTY MAD, HUH?

...

MY HEAD'S ALL JUMBLED UP NOW.

I CAN'T THINK ABOUT ANY-THING.

HE HEARD MY SONG...

...AND LEFT BEFORE IT WAS OVER.

SIGN: FRIED PORK SKEWERS ECCHAN

Fuuka

HUH?

I KNOW I CAN'T JUST TELL YOU...

...WHAT YOU SHOULD DO WITH YOUR OWN LIFE.

BUT...

I REALLY BELIEVE...

...THAT YOU GOT THROUGH TO YOUR DAD.

SORRY I CAN'T SAY ANYTHING MORE THAN THAT.

DON'T BE.

I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT.

...

HARU-NA-KUN...

# 133 PLAY IT AGAIN!

I SAID AND DID EVERY-THING I SET OUT TO!

OKAY!

ZWISH

SIGNS: FRIED PORK SKEWERS ECCHAN

I'LL MARRY HIDEYUKI AND BECOME A DOCTOR!

I'M QUITTIN' MUSIC AS OF TODAY, AFTER ALL.

I'M HOME!

SLIDE

NOW I JUST NEED...

...TO TELL THAT TO DAD!

NOBODY'S HERE.

HUH?

ARE YOU HOME?

TMP

TMP

DAD!

HE DIDN'T EVEN LOCK UP. THAT'S PRETTY CARE-LESS.

LOOK. REALLY. I'M SAYIN'.

IS HE UPSTAIRS SLEEPIN'?

SOME-ONE'S HERE.

...HM?

THAT'S THE FORBIDDEN ROOM--

WHAT --?

THUMP

THUMP

NO ONE EVER GOES IN HERE.

WH-WHAT'S GOING ON?!

THUMP

THUMP

WHAT'S SOMEONE DOIN' IN--

RATTLE

BACK LATE, AREN'T YA?

HEY.

WH-WHAT ARE YA DOIN', DAD?

WHY ARE YA IN HERE TALKIN' TO YOUR-SELF?

IS IT DEMENTIA?

HUH?

I WAS JUST... HAVIN' A DRINK WITH ETSUKO AGAIN.

BUT--

DON'T BE DUMB. I'M STILL TOO YOUNG FOR DEMENTIA.

SAME HERE.

A PICTURE OF MOM.

HAVEN'T SEEN THAT IN AGES.

OH-

...FOR AN AWFUL LONG TIME.

IT'S BEEN LOCKED IN HERE...

...

HUH?

I WANTED HER TO HEAR THIS, TOO.

KLAK

...WHY DO ALL THIS NOW?

YOU DIDN'T COME IN HERE FOR TEN YEARS.

UH...

O-OKAY.

FORGET IT, JUST SIDDOWN. I WAS WAITIN' FOR YA TO GET HOME.

THIS IS IMPORTANT, SO THE THREE OF US OUGHTA BE TOGETHER.

...

SO WHAT-

-DID YOU WANNA SAY?

...

DID YOU-

-WANNA BECOME A DOCTOR FOR MY SAKE?

NAW.

I HEARD YOU YAPPIN' ABOUT IT IN THE HOSPITAL.

WHAT?! YOU WERE AWAKE THEN?!

COURSE I WAS. SEDATIVES DON'T WORK ON ME.

!!

DID HIDEYUKI TELL YOU?!

HUH?

I DON'T NEED YOUR MEDDLIN'.

LISTEN... HIDEYUKI AND I ARE--

WELL...

THAT'LL SAVE ME SOME TALKIN', THEN.

IF THAT'S YOUR PLAN, THEN QUIT NOW AND GO BACK TO PLAYIN' THEM NOISY CONCERTS OF YOURS!

I DIDN'T SEND YA TO COLLEGE SO YOU COULD TAKE CARE OF ME!

...

!!

EVEN IF I DON'T GET WHAT YA LIKE SO MUCH ABOUT DOIN' THAT.

SO HOW CAN I LET YA KEEP RUNNIN' THE SHOP ALONE?!

THE DOCTOR EVEN TOLD YA TO TAKE IT EASY--

HA"/

CLATTER

DID YA FORGET THAT YOU'VE ALREADY COLLAPSED ONCE?!

WH-WHY WOULD HE SAY THAT?!

WE DON'T EVEN HAVE THE MONEY TO PAY HIM.

I TOLD HIM NO...

...BUT HE SAID HE CAN'T HAVE YA GIVIN' UP YOUR MUSIC.

DON'T WORRY 'BOUT THAT.

HIDEYUKI'S STARTIN' PART-TIME TOMOR-ROW.

WHAT?! WHY'S HE--

KA"

RATTLE

YOU CAN PAY ME LATER.

...

WHO TOLD YOU TO--

...YOU CAN PAY ME ALL AT ONCE.

WHEN YOU STRIKE IT RICH WITH YOUR MUSIC...

I AIN'T OBLI-GATED TO TAKE THAT KINDA FAVOR FROM--

THIS SHOP'S ACTUALLY PRETTY POPULAR. SO I WANTED TO STEAL ITS RECIPES.

ALSO, YOU SEEM TO BE MISUNDER-STANDIN'. SO LET ME TELL YA SOMETHIN'.

...

REAL-LY?

"COME SEE MY LAST CONCERT IF YA WANT." MY FOOT! PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR AUDIENCE!

I'VE BEEN YOUR FAN EVER SINCE YOUR FIRST GIG!

I WASN'T HAPPY AT ALL.

..TO SEE YA ACCEPT WITH A FACE LIKE THAT.

HUH?

ALSO..

YOU CAN FORGET ABOUT MARRYIN' ME, AFTER ALL.

..WHEN YOU WERE TRYIN' NOT TO CRY AT YOUR MOM'S FUNERAL.

IT WAS THE SAME LOOK YA HAD ON YOUR FACE..

DAD DIDN'T SEE HOW I FELT, AFTER ALL.

BUT--

...

WELL, I DIDN'T SEE WHAT WAS SO GREAT ABOUT IT..

THE WAY YA LOOKED AT YOUR GIG TODAY WAS MUCH BETTER.

SO DON'T SAY YOU'RE GONNA QUIT.

THAT'S THE LOOK I WANNA SEE ON YOUR FACE.

THAT SONG WAS ALL RIGHT.

BUT THAT "BALLAD OF FRIED PORK SKEWERS" AT THE END...

HUH?

WELL, I'LL JUST...

...HELP MYSELF TO THE VIP SEATS.

PLAY IT AGAIN HERE, SO SHE CAN HEAR IT, TOO.

LIKE I TOLD YA BEFORE...

THAT'S WHY I OPENED UP THIS ROOM.

SORRY...

I CAN'T TONIGHT.

THERE'S NO WAY I COULD SING IT RIGHT.

WELL, SHALL WE GO SEE KAEDE-SAN ONE LAST TIME BEFORE WE GO?

YEAH. WE DO OWE HER A LOT.

WHA?!

BAM

BAM

K-KAEDE-SAN!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?

I GOTTA TELL YA SOME-THIN'!

I'M GONNA...

...KEEP MAKIN' MUSIC AFTER ALL!!

I JUST WANTED TO TELL YA THAT.

SOME STUFF HAPPENED, AND IT'S ALL OKAY NOW.

REALLY?!

HUH?

HA HA HA! I WAS, BUT I GAVE UP ON THAT IDEA!

WAIT-- YOU WERE GOING TO QUIT MUSIC?

!

TUG

I RESTED UP AND I FEEL MUCH BETTER--

I'M OKAY NOW.

OH, RIGHT.

ONE MORE THING!

HUH?!

WHA --!!

WHA?

EH--

THANKS FOR EVERY-THING.

YOU'RE A NICER GUY THAN I THOUGHT.

YUU-KUN!!

WHAM

HEY-- WAIT, FUUKA! I DIDN'T DO ANYTHI--

WHAM

GAAAAH!!

SO WE'RE CURRENTLY HALFWAY THROUGH THE TOUR...

...AND WE'VE SOLD 1,200 CDS, WHICH IS ABOUT ONE FOURTH OF OUR GOAL.

ONE FOURTH, HUH?

SLURRRP

GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO TRY A LITTLE HARDER.

HUH? WHAT'S WRONG, SARA-SENPAI?

IT'S NOT THAT.

DID YOU WANT THIS BOWL INSTEAD?

BUT SINCE KANARIA HELPED US TURN IT INTO A TWO-CD SET, THEY'VE BEEN SELLING BETTER.

...

OUR PHOTOS ARE SELLING PRETTY WELL, TOO.

WE DO STILL HAVE A BUNCH OF HARUNA'S LEFT, THOUGH!

SHUT UP!

I UNDERSTAND THAT OUR TOUR AND CD SALES ARE IMPORTANT, BUT...

Fuuka

WHERE THE HECK ARE WE?!

BUT STILL! I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SPEND NEW YEAR'S EVE OUT HERE IN THE MOUNTAINS, EATING INSTANT NOODLES AND SLEEPING IN THE VAN!!

KEEP IT DOWN. DON'T BE DEMANDING. WE DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY.

BOWL: TEMPURA SOBA

WHAT DO YOU WANT US TO DO ABOUT IT? THERE ARE NO STREETLIGHTS, AND IT'S SNOWING.

ズ〃ズ〃〃 SLURP

PLUS, IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO DRIVE.

I KNOW THAT!! AND WHY IS IT EVEN SNOWING IN HIROSHIMA?!

庄原 Shobara City

JUST EAT AND GO TO SLEEP, WOULD YOU? WE HAVE TO GET UP EARLY.

# # 134 NEW YEAR'S SHRINE VISIT!

SNOOORE

MMMF!

ZZZ

ZZZ

...

THAT'S...

...

ANOTHER YEAR IS ENDING.

SO MUCH HAPPENED THIS PAST YEAR.

JANGLE
ガーラン
JANGLE
ガーラン
JANGLE
ガーラン

THIS YEAR,
FOR SURE.

WAUGH!

BOO!

...SO I RUSHED OUT HERE AFTER YOU!

フフフ HEE HEE!

I SAW YOU TAKING OFF SOMEWHERE...

IF YOU WERE VISITING THE SHRINE FOR NEW YEAR'S, YOU COULD'VE INVITED ME.

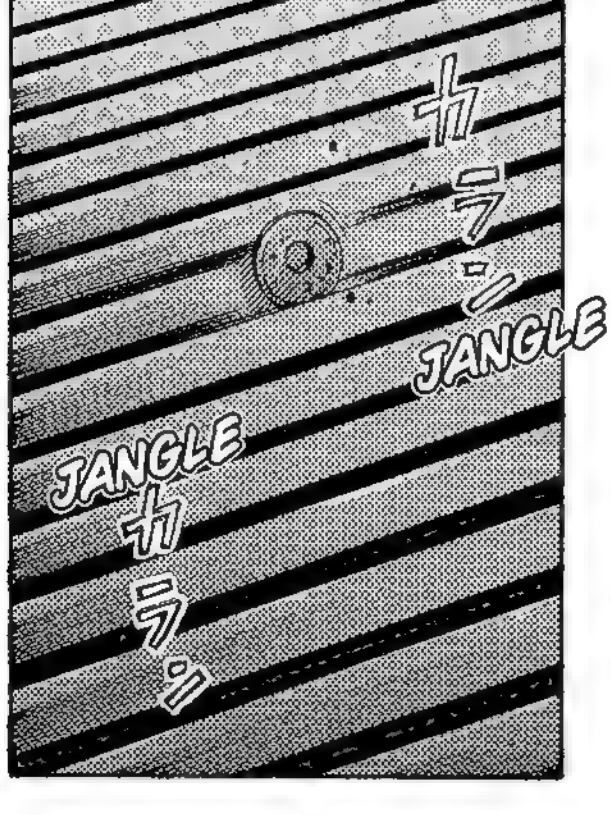
D-DON'T DO THAT! I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA HAVE A HEART ATTACK!!

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.

OH? HOW DEVOUT OF YOU.

I JUST SAW THE SHRINE HERE AND THOUGHT I'D COME PRAY.

WELL, I FIGURED EVERY-ONE WAS ASLEEP.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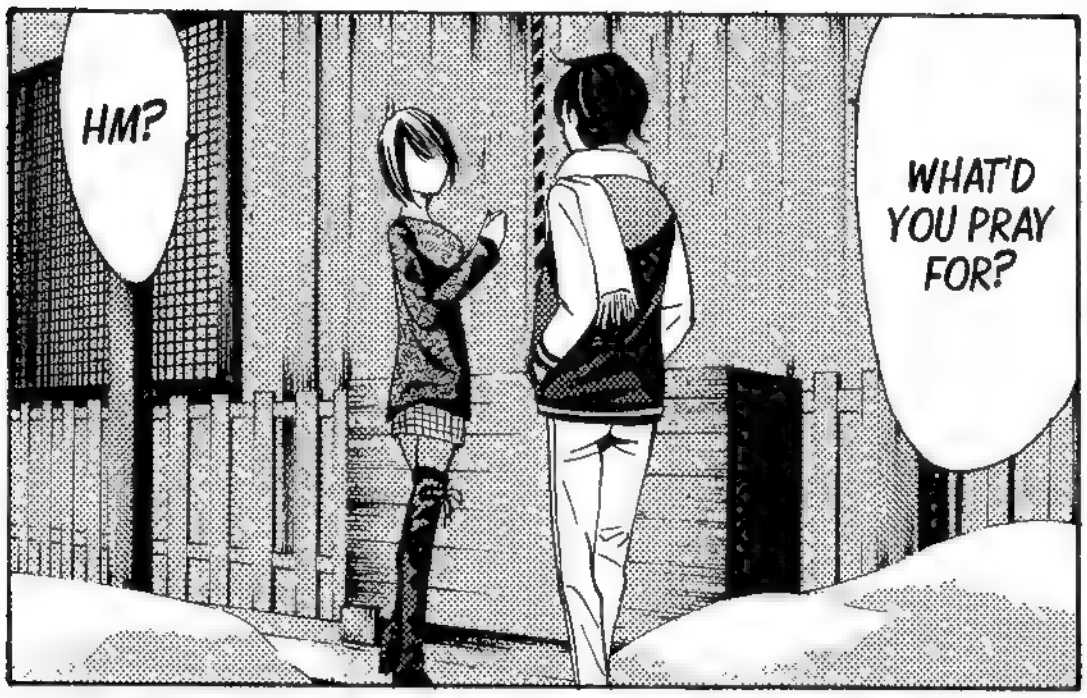
HM?
WHAT'D YOU PRAY FOR?

...
THERE!

...
UH.

THAT WE'D SELL LOTS OF CDS!
WHAT ABOUT YOU?

!!

FLOOF

TH-THANKS.

I TOOK OFF IN A HURRY, SO I FORGOT.

THAT ALL OUR BAND MEMBERS WOULD STAY HEALTHY.

HUH?

I ALSO PRAYED THAT I'D BE ABLE TO WRITE SOME GOOD SONGS.

...

OH. SURE.

LET'S HEAD BACK.

YOU'LL CATCH A COLD DRESSED LIKE THAT.

I PRAYED TO BE ABLE TO WRITE NEW SONGS FOR BLUE WELLS THAT CAN SUR-PASS WHAT WE'VE GOT!

WE CAN'T RELY ON OUR OLD SONGS FOREVER.

...SUR-PASS THEM.

NEW SONGS THAT CAN...

...

BUT ANY-WAY...

YEAH.

LOOK, FUUKA! IT'S "THE TOWN WHERE THE STARS FALL"!

WOW-- LOOK AT THE STARS!

HUH?

CAN YOU DO THAT?

CAN YOU WRITE SONGS...

...THAT SURPASS THE ONES YOU WROTE FOR THE FALLEN MOON?

IT'S JUST...

SINGING ON THIS TOUR HAS MADE ME REALIZE...

WELL...

OH! I'M NOT TRYING TO BE MEAN OR ANY-THING!

FUUKA...

...HOW MUCH YOU REALLY LOVED FUUKA AKITSUKI-CHAN.

SO, YOU KNOW...

I'M A LITTLE WOR-RIED.

SINCE I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE...

...ANYONE LIKE THAT NOW.

AND MAYBE THAT'S WHY YOU WERE ABLE TO WRITE SONGS WITH SUCH FEELING.

SO, WELL--

...

OF COURSE.

I DID LOVE HER.

I LOVED FUUKA AKITSUKI MORE THAN ANYONE.

I...

...

I REALLY LIKE THE SONGS WE'RE DOING RIGHT NOW, TOO!

...

BUT, WELL--

WHA--

I KNOW, RIGHT?!

SO IT'S NO WONDER YOU CAN'T DO THAT AGAIN!

HAVING A GIRL IN THE BAND WITH THE SAME NAME AS YOUR FORMER GIRL-FRIEND, I MEAN!

I MEAN, IT'S MAKING YOU REMEMBER WHETHER YOU WANT TO OR NOT, RIGHT?

ACTUALLY, MAYBE I'M JUST GETTING IN THE WAY OF YOUR SONG-WRITING!

YOU SHOULD JUST CALL ME AOI AGAIN, THEN!

SORRY ABOUT THAT! I, UM--I'M GONNA HEAD BACK!!

AH!

!!

SORRY.

...

YEAH.

IT DID MAKE ME RE-MEM-BER.

WAIT, FUUKA!!

IT'S TRUE THAT WHEN WE FIRST MET-

...AND YOU TOLD ME YOUR NAME. IT REALLY SHOOK ME.

AND THERE WERE TIMES WHEN FUUKA AKITSUKI'S SHADOW OVERLAPPED WITH YOU IN MY MIND.

...

BUT AFTER PERFORM-ING AT THE FESTIVAL TOGETHER-

AND BEING IN THE SAME COMPANY-

AND TEAMING UP AT THE HEDGEHOGS' FESTIVAL.

AND SPENDING TIME WITH YOU.

ABOUT YOUR WEAKNESS AND THE WOUNDS IN YOUR HEART.

AND WHEN I LEARNED.

SO.

.THAT MY FEELINGS WERE CHANGING.

I REALIZED.

THE ONLY FUUKA IN MY LIFE IS YOU!!

SO I KNOW I CAN DO IT NOW.

I CAN WRITE SONGS WITH EVEN MORE FEELING THAN THE OLD ONES!

...

HUH?!

I--I DON'T REALLY GET WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.

OKAY, I GET IT! THAT'S ENOUGH! JUST SHUT UP!!

I'M SAY-ING!!

THE ONE I LOVE THE MOST IS--

MGRF!!

!!

I WANT...

...OKAY.

A SONG IT IS.

...TO HEAR IT IN A SONG.

# 135 FUKUOKA!

INSA

WOW

MAN, THAT WAS A RUSH! THIS FUKUOKA GIG WAS A GREAT START TO THE NEW YEAR!

ALTHOUGH YOU JUST KEPT MESSING UP AS USUAL, NACHI-SENPAI.

TRUE.

I DID NOT!

AND WE SOLD ALMOST 200 CDS!

PEOPLE ARE MORE WILLING TO SPEND CASH AFTER GETTING THEIR NEW YEAR'S MONEY AND YEAR-END BONUSES.

HUH?

YUU-KUN WAS ESPECIALLY IN GOOD FORM TODAY.

I WONDER IF SOME-THING NICE HAPPENED TO HIM?

...

NO IDEA.

HE WENT OUTSIDE RIGHT AFTER THE SHOW ENDED.

THAT'S ALWAYS THE FIRST THING YOU SUGGEST.

HE TAKING A DUMP?

SPEAKING OF HARUNA, WHERE'D HE GO, ANYWAY? I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN A WHILE.

HE SAID HE REALLY NEEDED TO WRITE A NEW SONG, SO HE WANTED TO FOCUS.

BUT HE SAID HE WANTS IT TO BE HEARD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

...

HUH? BY WHO?

NOT SURE. THE FANS, I GUESS?

BUT WHY THE RUSH? WE HAVE PLENTY OF SONGS TO USE FOR THIS TOUR.

THAT'S WHAT I TOLD HIM, TOO.

...

TAP
TAP
TAP

MMM, THAT'S NOT QUITE RIGHT.

WHOOOSH

IT NEEDS TO BE A PHRASE WITH MORE IMPACT-- THAT WILL GET THESE FEELINGS ACROSS.

THEN AGAIN, IF IT'S TOO VAGUE, MY FEELINGS MIGHT NOT BE CLEAR.

MAYBE I SHOULD CLEARLY INCLUDE "I LOVE YOU" IN THERE.

BUT JUST COMING RIGHT OUT AND PUTTING "I LOVE YOU" IN IT ISN'T REALLY MY THING.

SOMETHING TO MAKE IT OBVIOUS WITHOUT MY ACTUALLY SAYING IT-

COUGH
COUGH

HM --?

F-
FUUKA!!

...

D-DID YOU HEAR --?

NOPE!! THE WIND'S SO LOUD, I CAN'T HEAR A THING!

ANYWAY! AOBA-CHAN SAID TO GET EVERYONE TOGETHER TO TALK ABOUT OUR NEXT GIG.

OH--

OKAY.

...

SO-

IT'S ALMOST DONE, BUT...

I DON'T THINK IT SURPASSES THE OLDER SONGS YET.

UH--

YEAH.

IS...

...THE NEW SONG COMING ALONG?

HUH?

M-MAYBE...

...THERE'S NOT ENOUGH OF SOME-THING.

WELL...

TAKE ONE MORE STEP.

MAYBE, TO MAKE A GOOD SONG, YOU NEED TO--

UM--

...

YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT.

YOU...

YEAH.

THEN...

!

HEY, YOU TWO!

HUH?

WAIT, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

STOP GOOFING AROUND AND HURRY BACK INSIDE.

R-RIGHT !!

WHERE IS IT?! I DON'T SEE ANY DUST IN YOUR EYES!

TUG

OWOWOW!

A CITY-WIDE FESTIVAL...?

UM...

WHAT'S THIS "CITY-WIDE FESTIVAL," ANYWAY?

HUH?

YEAH! IT'S GOING TO BE HAPPENING HERE IN FUKUOKA NEXT WEEK.

YANAGI-SAN FROM ROCKTOWN RECOMMENDED US, SO WE WERE ADDED TO THE LINEUP AT THE LAST MINUTE!

...IT'S A FESTIVAL WHERE LOTS OF BANDS PERFORM AT ALL THE LIVE CLUBS IN TOWN.

UNLIKE FESTIVALS WHERE EVERYONE COMES TO ONE BIG VENUE...

...AND SEE WHICHEVER BANDS YOU WANT.

THAT'S A CITY-WIDE FESTIVAL.

ONCE YOU BUY A TICKET, YOU CAN MOVE FREELY BETWEEN ALL THE CLUBS...

...GETS TO...

GETS TO...

AND WHAT'S MORE, THE BAND THAT'S VOTED THE MOST POPULAR IN THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL...

HUH.

THAT SOUNDS PRETTY FUN.

...TO SELL THEIR MERCH AT CD SHOPS THROUGHOUT KYUSHU!

...HAVE THEIR OWN SPECIAL CORNER SET UP...

TH-THAT'S AMAZ-ING!

WHAT?!

SO WE COULD SELL ALL OF OUR CDS IF THIS WORKS OUT?!

THIS IS A BIG CHANCE.

THEN WE HAVE TO WIN!

BUT OF COURSE.

ズーン GLOOOOM...

THINGS JUST AREN'T THAT EASY IN LIFE.

IS THERE SOME PROB-LEM?

WHAT THE HECK? YOU'RE EVEN MORE UNSTABLE THAN USUAL TODAY.

THE BANDS IN THIS YEAR'S CITY-WIDE FESTIVAL.

THEY'RE ALL YOUNG BANDS THAT WERE IN THE HEDGEHOGS' FESTIVAL.

...INCLUDE LE BARD, RABBITZ, COLT PYTHON... AND LOTS MORE.

WE'RE NOT THE SAME BAND WE WERE BACK THEN.

YEAH, WELL--

WHAT'S WITH HARUNA? HE'S BEING SUCH A DRAG.

AND JUST WHEN WE'RE ABOUT TO CHECK OUT FUKUOKA'S OUTDOOR FOOD STALLS.

LET'S JUST LEAVE HIM BE.

HE'S IN SONG-WRITING MODE RIGHT NOW.

HEARING THE LINEUP FOR THE CITY-WIDE FESTIVAL GOT HIM EVEN MORE FIRED UP.

IS THIS GONNA BE OKAY, THOUGH?

HE SAID HE'D FINISH A NEW SONG IN TIME FOR THE FESTIVAL...

おずん

...BUT IF WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO REHEARSE IT, CAN IT REALLY WORK?

I'M JUST HAPPY HE FEELS THAT WAY.

HUH?

HE'S DOING HIS BEST...

...TO WRITE A GOOD SONG FOR US.

...

THAT'S ENOUGH FOR ME.

...TO TELL HER HOW I FEEL... ABOUT ALL OF WHAT I FEEL.

IT HAS TO BE THE BEST SONG I CAN MAKE RIGHT NOW...

...

AND TO DO THAT, I'M NOT GONNA COM-PROMISE ON--

...WAIT, WHAT?

WHERE'S THE FESTIVAL LODGING, ANYWAY?

AM I LOST?

HUH?

OUT OF THE WAY!!

LEAP

THUD

GWAAAH!!

WHUMP

AAAAAH!

WHA--

JEEZ... I TOLD YOU TO MOVE.

YOU CAME FLYING AT ME OUT OF NOWHERE!

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO MOVE WHEN--

WHOOSH

WHA...

GOOD! LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE OKAY.

FUUKA...

WELL, I'M IN A HURRY!

HEY !!

WAI--

To be continued in Vol. 15

BUT DON'T YOU GET THE FEELING THAT THERE SHOULD BE MORE GUESTS HERE?

SURE GOT THAT RIGHT!

PLASH

PLASH

I JUST KNEW THAT A SUPER BATH WOULD BE THE BEST!

THEY'VE GOT WARM, COZY SPOTS TO TAKE A NAP, AND THESE BATHS ARE HUGE!!

WELL, IT'S CHRISTMAS! EVERYONE'S GONE HOME.

OH... THAT MAKES SENSE.

I SUPPOSE EVERY-ONE ELSE HAS PLANS.

MM-HM!

URRRGH...

ブルルル

I WAS SO IN LOVE THAT I WAS DANCING ON AIR!

THE TRUTH IS THAT A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO, I WAS DATING THIS VOCALIST FROM AN INDIE BAND I JUST ADORED.

BUT I JUST COULDN'T WAIT THAT LONG. I BOUGHT A CAKE AT AN ALL-NIGHT BAKERY AND WENT TO SEE HIM.

AND DURING CHRISTMAS, HE SAID THAT WE COULDN'T SEE EACH OTHER BECAUSE BANDS ALWAYS HAVE CONCERTS THEN...

SO...

...WHAT KIND OF GIRL WAS SHE?

HOW VILE!

THAT'S AWFUL! YOU MEAN HE WAS TWO-TIMING YOU?!

YES, IT WAS A SHOCK!

AND ...

AND ...

...THERE HE WAS, KISSING ANOTHER GIRL...

HUH?

UM... SHE WAS BUSTY, WITH A SHORT HAIRCUT.

WELL ...

I-I JUST THOUGHT I'D WASH MY HAIR FIRST!!

HUH? AREN'T YOU GOING TO JOIN US, AOI-SAN?

わしゃ SHAKKA

わしゃ SHAKKA

わしゃ SHAKKA

SO, THIS TIME OF YEAR, WHENEVER I SEE SHORT...

TH-THAT GUY WAS A JERK! IT WAS ALL HIS FAULT!!

...WHAT WITH ONE THING AND ANOTHER, THE NEXT YEAR, I HAD A NEW BOYFRIEND.

BUT ...

HM...

...
THAT GUY... TURNED OUT TO BE A REAL PERV

...WELL, YOU DID...

I'M HAPPY FOR YOU!

OH, YOU DID? YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD US ALL A LONG TIME AGO!

HUH?!

HE KEPT PESTERING ME TO ACT OUT HIS WHIPPED-CREAM CHRISTMAS FANTASY...

AND WHEN HE DID, THAT GIRL...

ちら…

HE JUST SAID, "WHO NEEDS YOU? I'LL FIND SOME OTHER GIRL TO DO IT!"

RIGHT... SO I TOLD HIM I WOULDN'T DO IT.

IT BE AWKY.

THAT'S LIKE, TOTALLY THE GROSSEST THING!

SPLOOSH

...TURNED OUT TO BE BUSTY WITH SHORT HAIR!

HUH? IS SOME-THING WRONG WITH AOI-SAN?

ブルブル

I-I COULDN'T SAY... MAYBE SHE SLIPPED?

BUT AOBA-CHAN, YOU'RE DOING THAT ON PURPOSE, AREN'T YOU?

DOING WHAT?

... I HOPE YOU REALLY AREN'T.

BUT... YOU KNOW, EVEN TALKING ABOUT IT AGAIN BRINGS OUT THE OLD ANGER...

JUST RE-MEMBERING MAKES ME WANT TO VOMIT!

YES, BUT THE BLAME CAN'T BE PUT ON THE SHORT...

YEAH, SURE! BUT STILL, EVERY TIME I SEE THAT IN TOWN, MY BLOOD BOILS!

IT MAKES ME...

IT MAKES ME...

...HATE SHORTCAKE WITH A PASSION!

...

SHORT...

...CAKE...?

WELL, SURE!! I BUY A CHRISTMAS CAKE AND GET CHEATED ON!

THE NEXT GUY DUMPS ME BECAUSE I WON'T LET HIM COVER ME WITH WHIPPED CREAM FROSTING!!

IT'S, LIKE, EVERY YEAR! EVERY YEAR, I GO THROUGH A NEW SHORTCAKE-THEMED TRAUMA!!

SLOOSH

...

...

THE WHOLE CONCEPT OF CHRISTMAS CAKE IS ALL WRONG!!

THAT'S JUST WHAT I THOUGHT, AOI-SAN!!

NO KIDDING!! WE'RE JAPANESE, RIGHT? WHY AREN'T WE EATING SUSHI OR SOMETHING?

Y-YOU THINK SO TOO, IWAMI-SAN?!

E-EXACTLY! THERE'S SOMETHING FUNDAMENTALLY WRONG WITH CHRISTMAS SHORTCAKE!!

MERRY CHRIST-MA—

YOU INSEN-SITIVE JERK!!

DOKAAM

HUUUH?!

WAAAH!!

WH-WHAT DID I DO?!

ARE YOU EVEN TAKING THIS TOUR SERIOUSLY?!

I LOVE IT WHEN CHRISTMAS IS FESTIVE!

WHAT IS GOING ON...?

NATCHI, YOU ARE THE BIGGEST PERV!!

HUH?!

# ? THE END

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